

London Bird Report

2001

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London Natural History Society

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London Bird Report for 2001

edited by Andrew Self

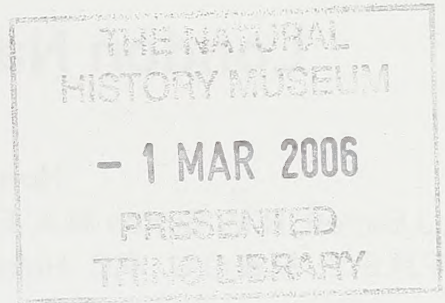
NUMBER 66

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Owls to Kingfisher – <i>Andrew Self</i>	
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Pipits to Wagtails – <i>Martin Shepherd</i>	
Waxwing to Robin - <i>Andrew Self</i>	
Chats to Thrushes - <i>Roy Woodward</i>	
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the London Bird Report for 2001. The enormity of putting this report may be appreciated by the fact that we received over 38,000 records of 224 species (plus numerous escapes) for 2001. Whilst on the subject of records can I urge all those with the capability to send their records and descriptions in electronically as it cuts down the time involved in processing them enormously. An Excel or MS Works spreadsheet for records can be obtained from me by email or on disk.

In this report there is an excellent set of papers including those on two declining urban species, House Sparrow and House Martin. There is also an account of a new bird for the London Area, Radde's Warbler which was inadvertently omitted from the last LBR.

Yet again I have to report changes of recorder and my thanks go to outgoing Inner London Recorder, Des McKenzie for all the work he has put in since assuming the role in 1997. His replacement, David Darrell-Lambert will be known to all of you as the previous Essex Recorder. Thanks also to Stephen Harris for his work as Essex Recorder and we welcome his replacement, Chris Langsdon. During the next year I am looking to recruit people to help with data input and to replace recorders who have indicated they wish to stand down. Please let me know if you would be interested.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Records Committee, it is my pleasure to thank a record number of 609 observers who contributed records for this issue of the London Bird Report.

I'd like to thank all those who worked towards the production of this report, particularly Paul Cornelius who wrote a large number of sections, Rob Innes for writing the review of the year as well as several sections, Steve Spooner for putting together the database, Jan Wilczur for his wonderful illustrations which liven up this report, Dominic Mitchell for sorting out the colour plates, Mike Trier for editing all the papers and everyone who wrote a section of the systematic list.

I am particularly grateful to all the Recorders, for the time-consuming task of checking through the species accounts in the systematic list and for providing invaluable comments and corrections at the draft stage as well as their responses to my requests for information; to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to members; and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records

Birdguides

British Birds Rarities Committee
British Trust for Ornithology
Buckinghamshire Bird Club
East London Birders Forum
Essex Birdwatching Society
Hertfordshire Natural History Society
Kent Ornithological Society
Surrey Bird Club

Andrew Self
October 2005

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Recording Arrangements

The area covered by this Report, conventionally known as 'the London Area', is the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, Watsonian vice-counties are used in this Report instead of the present administrative areas (but note that vice-counties 18 and 19, South and North Essex, are lumped together as Essex). The vice-county boundaries are shown on the map of the Area which follows. There is also a special recording zone for Inner London. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square, which covers parts of Middx, Surrey and, just, Kent.

A detailed Map of the Area together with a Gazetteer of Sites appears on pages 7 to 14.

The names used in this Report for certain sites are not shown on, or differ from those on, Ordnance Survey maps. Please consult the Gazetteer of Sites if in any doubt. It would be helpful if these names could be used by observers when submitting records. A National Ordnance Survey Grid Reference should be given in any difficult or doubtful case.

All records of interest are welcome, from LNHS members and non-members alike. These include information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on migration (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations and notes on behaviour and on the occurrence of unusual birds. Many of the passerines, in particular, are under-recorded. Regular reports from the same localities are invaluable in assessing population trends; such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. **A guide for contributors of records is published in this report on pages 196 to 198.** Records should be sent to the appropriate recorder listed on page 5 or, if in doubt, to the *LBR* Editor.

It will greatly assist the speedy entering of records if the Society's recording sheets are used. These are available from any of the Recorders or the Editor on request. Species should be listed in Voous sequence as used in this Report. Separate sheets should be used for each recording area. Completed recording sheets for the period January to July should be submitted in August and for the period August to December in early January of the following year.

Records of nationally rare species should be submitted via the local Recorder to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee as soon as possible after the sighting. Breeding records of rare species should be sent via the local Recorder to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence.

Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are examined by the LNHS Records Committee before inclusion in the *London Bird Report*. Therefore, please complete and submit a LNHS *Unusual Species Description Form* (available from the Recorders or the Editor) or a brief description/copy of your field notes for these species. Please submit these as soon as possible after the sighting. **Species for which a full description or brief description/field notes are required are evident from the 'guide to contributors' at the back of this report.**

Gazetteer of Sites

The following gazetteer is not intended to include every single site mentioned in the *LBR* and omits obvious place names of towns and villages. It does however, seek to identify the whereabouts of productive ornithological sites, well known or otherwise. It is intended to keep this up to date in each future issue of the *LBR*. Each site name is followed by a six figure Ordnance Survey Grid Reference enabling sites to be pinpointed on the map above. The Grid Reference number either refers to the centre of the site or a point of particular ornithological interest. Readers should note that the inclusion of a site in this gazetteer does not imply public access; indeed some are strictly private or access is by permit only.

There has been considerable confusion caused in the past by contributors of records using inconsistent and unfamiliar place names and we would urge all contributors to use the names listed in this gazetteer whenever appropriate. In doubtful cases, please submit the record along with an Ordnance Survey Grid Reference number.

Aberdare Gardens	TQ260842	Bexley Hospital	TQ513727
Acton Green	TQ204790	Bexley Wood	TQ483737
Addington Hills	TQ353643	Biggin Hill	TQ457572
Addlestone	TQ056643	Bishops Wood	TQ066920
Albert Embankment	TQ303783	Black Park	TQ010836
Aldenham Res	TQ169955	Blackfriars Bridge	TQ317807
Alderbourne WCB	TQ029850	Blackheath	TQ390766
Alexandra Park	TQ302900	Blackwall Basin	TQ381802
Amwell GP	TL380125	Bletchingley	TQ326506
Apps Court Farm GP	TQ165625	Blue Lake, Northfleet	TQ622737
Arbrook Common	TQ145630	Bookham Common	TQ130565
Archbishop's Park	TQ241761	Borehamwood	TQ195975
Ashford	TQ070715	Bowman's Heath	TQ518738
Ashted Common	TQ175595	Bowmansgreen Farm	TL189041
Aveley Landfill	TQ558812	Box Wood	TL353096
Balls Wood	TL344106	Boxer's Lake, Enfield	TQ305962
Banbury Res	TQ362915	Brent Park	TQ240889
Bangors Park Farm, Iver	TQ035824	Brent Res	TQ215870
Bankside PS	TQ320806	Brentford Ait	TQ187778
Banstead Down	TQ252610	Brickendonbury	TL330104
Banstead Heath	TQ235545	Bricket Wood/Common	TL130010
Banstead Wood	TQ260560	Brimsdown	TQ368970
Barking Bay/Marsh	TQ451816	Brixton Hill	TQ306734
Barnes	TQ222761	Broad Colney Fields	TL180030
Barnes Common	TQ222758	Broad Colney Lakes	TL178034
Barn Hill	TQ194874	Broadgate EC2	TQ334817
Barwell Court Farm	TQ170630	Broadwater Lake	TQ045892
Barrack Wood	TQ597915	Brockwell Park	TQ316740
Batchworth Lake	TQ058940	Bromley Common	TQ415655
Batler's Green	TL158985	Brompton Cemetery	TQ258777
Battersea PS	TQ270770	Brooklands	TQ068620
Battersea Park	TQ282772	Brookmans Park	TL253038
Bayford	TL310084	Broomfield Park	TQ304927
Bayhurst Wood	TQ065892	Broxbourne GP	TL379078
Bealieu Heights Wood	TQ334696	Broxbourne Woods	TL340080
Beckenham Place Park	TQ385705	Bruce Castle Park	TQ336908
Beddington Corner	TQ281668	Brunswick Park	TQ331769
Beddington Park	TQ292654	Buckhurst Hill GP	TQ425934
Beddington SF	TQ290662	Buckland SP	TQ227510
Bedfont Lakes/GP	TQ078726	Buckland, Rectory Lane	TQ219513
Bedford Park	TQ210791	Bugsby's Reach	TQ398798
Bedfords Park	TQ518925	Bully Point NR, Stratford	TQ374839
Beech Farm GP	TL190086	Bulphan Fen	TQ633864
Belair Park	TQ328733	Burgess Park	TQ335778
Bell Wharf, Harefield	TQ052866	Burhill Allotments	TQ115635
Bell Lance Fields	TL198040	Burnt Oak	TQ205912
Belvedere PS	TQ499808	Burwood Park	TQ100644
Bencroft Wood	TL330064	Bury Lake	TQ053938
Bentley Priory	TQ155927	Bushy Park	TQ160690
Berrybushes Wood	TL069007	Camberwell Old Cemetery	TQ348742
Berrylands	TQ192674	Camley St Natural Park	TQ298836
Berwick Ponds	TQ543835	Cannon Hill Common	TQ238683
Bessels Green	TQ505555	Cannons Park	TQ182915
Betchworth	TQ218505	Carshalton Beeches	TQ272638
Beverley Brook, Richmond	TQ213726	Cassiobury Park	TQ090970

Cassiobury Park WCB	TQ090968	Crayford Ness	TQ532781
Chalfont Lodge	TQ894899	Creekmouth, Barking	TQ457814
Chalfont Park	TQ013896	Crews Hill	TQ312000
Chandlers Hill, Iver Hth	TQ035834	Croham Hurst	TQ337632
Charlton GP	TQ087692	Crossness	TQ478815
Chelsea Bridge	TQ286778	Crossness East	TQ492809
Chelsfield	TQ482642	Crouch End	TQ298885
Chelsham	TQ373589	Crouch End Rec Ground	TQ295881
Chertsey	TQ043664	Croxley Green	TQ070955
Chertsey Meads	TQ060662	Croxley Hall GPs	TQ068943
Cheshunt GP	TL370030	Croxley Moor	TQ065956
Cheshunt GP (70 Acres GP)	TL874030	Crystal Palace Park	TQ347707
Cheshunt GP (Bowyer's GP)	TL368018	Cuddington Golf Club	TQ239615
Cheshunt GP (Friday Lake)	TL371020	Cuffley	TL303030
Cheshunt GP (Police Pit)	TL371025	Curtismill Green	TQ519965
Cheshunt GP (North Met GP)	TL369033	Dagenham Chase	TQ514858
Cheshunt Marsh	TL367018	Dagenham Corridor	TQ495875
Cheshunt Park Farm	TL355046	Dagnam Park	TQ550933
Chevening	TQ488577	Danson Park	TQ473748
Chigwell Res	TQ460937	Darenth Lake	TQ559710
Chipstead Lake	TQ505565	Darenth Valley Walk	TQ560704
Chiswell Green	TQ125047	Darenth Wood	TQ580727
Chiswick Eyot	TQ219779	Darlands Lake	TQ243943
Chorleywood Common	TQ033963	Dartford Heath	TQ516733
City Road Basin, Islington	TQ322830	Dartford Marsh	TQ544774
Clackett Lane Services	TQ425544	Dartford Marsh Pig Farm	TQ539769
Clapton Common	TQ342878	Deephams SF	TQ360937
Clay Tye Wood	TQ595587	Delaforde Park	TQ043818
Claybury	TQ435913	Denham Aerodrome	TQ033887
Claygate Common	TQ161632	Denham CP	TQ048865
Claygate Green	TQ157637	Denham Quarry Lake	TQ045870
Clissold Park	TQ332867	Denham GC	TQ027883
Cobbins Brook	TL409018	Denham Marsh Farm	TQ020884
Coldfall Wood	TQ276903	Denham Mount	TQ028874
Cole Green	TL282114	Denham Place	TQ040873
Colindale	TQ210900	Denham Station	TQ042878
Colnbrook	TQ025775	Denham Village	TQ040870
Colne Brook, Iver	TQ042813	Desborough Island	TQ084664
Colney Heath	TL205062	Dews Farm Lake	TQ053878
Connaught Water	TQ404933	Ditton Field	TQ157679
Coopers Green Lane	TL193098	Dobbs Weir	TL384043
Coopersale	TQ480025	Dog Kennel Covert	TQ103783
Copped Hall	TL430010	Downe Barns Farm	TQ105841
Coppetts Wood	TQ277916	Dulwich College	TQ329736
Copse Wood	TQ085897	Dulwich Golf Course	TQ339728
Corbets Tey	TQ577851	Dulwich Mill Pond	TQ333731
Cornmill Meads	TL380011	Dulwich Park	TQ335735
Coulsdon	TQ296593	Dulwich Upper Wood	TQ339729
Coursers Lane Fields	TL200040	Dulwich Village	TQ334739
Court Lane, Dulwich	TQ336739	Dulwich Woods	TQ340725
Cowley Lake	TQ052814	Durant's Park, Ponders End	TQ357968
Cowley Peachy	TQ054814	Eagle Pond	TQ390884
Crane Park	TQ126730	Easneye Wood	TL385137
Cranley Gardens	TQ289890	East India Dock Basin	TQ391808
Crayford Marsh	TQ532775	East Iver Lakes	TQ047804

Edgwarebury Park	TQ190934	Haberdashers' Girls Sch'l	TL170965
Elmbridge Leisure Centre	TQ107678	Hadley Common	TQ265972
Enfield Golf Course	TQ313962	Hainault Forest	TQ476932
Enfield Lock	TQ368982	Hall Marsh	TL373017
Enfield Town Park	TQ326963	Hall Place Gardens	TQ505743
Epping Forest	TQ420985	Ham Lands	TQ165725
Epping Upland	TL430050	Hampermill Lake	TQ095942
Epsom Common	TQ190605	Hampstead Heath	TQ273866
Epsom Downs	TQ211580	Hampton	TQ133700
Erith Marsh	TQ488805	Hampton Court Park	TQ166676
Erith Reach	TQ500788	Hampton Hill	TQ150712
Esher Common	TQ135625	Hampton Waterworks	TQ127686
Essendon	TL274087	Hampton Wick	TQ175699
Ewell	TQ217624	Hanworth	TQ120718
Eynsford	TQ540655	Harefield	TQ050900
Fairmile Common	TQ125617	Harmondsworth GP	TQ050779
Fairlop Lakes CP	TQ458459	Harold Wood SF	TQ565915
Farleigh	TQ367602	Harrow School	TQ157870
Farlowes Lake	TQ047810	Harrow Weald	TQ150910
Farringdon	TQ316818	Hartnips Wood	TQ547637
Fernyhill Farm, Enfield	TQ282981	Hatch End	TQ130914
Field Common GP	TQ128671	Hatfield Aerodrome	TL210090
Finsbury Circus	TQ312816	Hatfield Park	TL240080
Finsbury Park	TQ317875	Hatherop Park	TQ124704
Fishers Green	TL376044	Havering CP	TQ505930
Fitzroy Square	TQ294823	Hawk's Wood	TQ014862
Foots Cray Meadows	TQ480715	Hawkshead Wood	TQ220030
Foots Cray Woods	TQ479721	Hawkwood	TQ442695
Forster Park	TQ387722	Hays Wharf, SE1	TQ330804
Forty Hall, Enfield	TQ337987	Headley Heath	TQ200535
Frays Carp Lake	TQ054865	Headstone	TQ139895
Frays Meadow, Uxbridge	TQ057853	Heathfield Rec Ground	TQ134743
Frays Middle Lake	TQ056866	Helicon Lake	TQ039909
Frays Northern Lake	TQ056868	Hendon Park	TQ233884
Friern Barnet	TQ280925	Henley Wood, Chelsham	TQ374587
Frogmore GP, Radlett	TL150033	Herne Hill Cycle Track	TQ326742
Furzefield Wood	TL103055	Hersham GP	TQ128663
Gatton Park/Lake	TQ271525	Hersham SF	TQ127657
Gernon Bushes	TL490085	Hertford Heath	TL349107
Gladwin's Wood	TQ019864	Hertingfordbury	TL305122
Godstone SP	TQ345518	Hextable	TQ522712
Golders Green	TQ245883	High Elms	TQ450630
Grays	TQ610773	Highgate Wood	TQ283887
Grays Chalk Pits	TQ609788	Highway Farm, Harefield	TQ060881
Great Amwell	TL368122	Hilfield Park Res	TQ158959
Great Halings Wood	TQ032895	Hill End	TQ050918
Great Soloms Wood, Banstead	TQ272588	Hinchley Wood	TQ157650
Great Warley	TQ583907	Hither Green Cemetery	TQ398729
Greenhill Wood, Shoreham	TQ538602	Hither Green NR	TQ390740
Greenhithe	TQ585753	Hoblingwell Wood	TQ450690
Green Park	TQ290800	Hoddesdonpark Wood	TL352084
Greenwich Park	TQ390775	Hogsmill SF	TQ197682
Grovelands Park	TQ305944	Hogwood	TQ555631
Gunnersbury Triangle NR	TQ201787	Holland Park	TQ248796
Gutteridge Wood	TQ091843	Hollow Pond	TQ414873

Holmethorpe SP	TQ295515	Littlebrook PS	TQ563764
Holyfield Hall Farm	TL384038	London Wetland Centre	TQ228770
Home Cottage Farm	TQ028825	Long Coppice	TQ031849
Honor Oak	TQ358742	Long Ditton	TQ174664
Hooks Marsh	TL373023	Long Reach SF	TQ553768
Hornchurch CP	TQ535825	Lonsdale Road Res	TQ218775
Horton CP	TQ190627	Lordship Lane Rec Ground	TQ326902
Horton Fields	TQ015764	Loseberry Farm, Claygate	TQ148636
Horton GP	TQ005753	Love Hill House Farm, Iver	TQ013810
Horton Kirby	TQ565686	Lower Feltham	TQ099838
Hounslow Heath	TQ123745	Lullingstone Lake/Park	TQ523644
Howell Hill, Ewell	TQ238621	Lynster's Farm	TQ034920
Hunston Mead	TL422114	Lynsters Lake	TQ038916
Hunton Bridge Hill	TL076006	Mad Bess Wood	TQ076895
Huntsmoor Park	TQ047815	Malden Rushett	TQ169615
Hyde Park	TQ270803	Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath	TQ039836
Hythe	TQ020718	Maple Lodge NR	TQ036924
Ingrebourne Valley	TQ538843	Martens Grove	TQ505752
Island Barn Res	TQ140670	Maryon Wilson Park	TQ419785
Isleworth Ait	TQ167757	Mayfield Lakes	TQ052789
Itchingwood Common	TQ416506	Mayow Park	TQ358718
Iver Heath	TQ033835	Merchant Taylors' School	TQ088940
Jersey Farm	TL174097	Merstham Sewage Works	TQ303523
Joyce Green Hospital	TQ547760	Middlesex Filter Beds	TQ359865
Joyce Green Hospital Farm	TQ545765	Mill Green SF	TL245100
Joyden's Wood	TQ500715	Millwall Docks	TQ377795
Jubilee Gardens	TQ318803	Mitcham Common	TQ290675
Juniper Hill, Rickmansworth	TQ060931	Moat Mount Open Space	TQ215944
Juniper Wood	TQ025895	Molesey GP	TQ129671
Kelsey Park	TQ376688	Molesey Heath	TQ132672
Kempton Park	TQ117700	Moor Mill	TL145030
Kempton Park Res	TQ122702	Moor Park GC	TQ075935
Kenley Aerodrome	TQ328587	Moorhall Lake	TQ048889
Kensington Gardens	TQ270803	Moorhouse	TQ433532
Kenton Recreation Ground	TQ165890	Morden Hall Park	TQ264687
Keston Ponds	TQ426645	Muswell Hill	TQ282900
Kevington	TQ482675	Nashes Farm	TL180096
Kew Gardens	TQ182769	Navestock Lake/Park	TQ538985
King George V Res	TQ374964	Nazeing GP	TL385072
King George VI Res	TQ041732	Netherhall GP	TL394083
King's Cross Development	TQ834302	New Beckenham	TQ367710
Korda Lake	TQ045886	New Cross Railway Cutting	TQ363768
Kynaston Wood	TQ482672	New Denham	TQ046849
Ladywell Park	TQ372740	New Southgate	TQ292925
Lafone St, SE1	TQ338799	Nightingale Wood	TQ038888
Laleham Park	TQ053680	Noke Farm	TL125037
Langley Park	TQ013814	Nonsuch Park	TQ232638
Layham's Farm	TQ400627	Norbury Park	TQ310699
Leaves Green	TQ415615	North Cray	TQ490723
Lee	TQ395750	Northaw Great Wood	TL285044
Limpsfield	TQ402531	Northolt RAF Aerodrome	TQ100850
Limpsfield Chart	TQ445523	Norwood Grove	TQ333704
Little Britain Lake	TQ049813	Nower Wood	TQ195547
Little Venice	TQ263818	Nunhead Cemetery	TQ355756
Littlebrook Lake	TQ553756	Nutfield Ridge	TQ293540

Oak Hill Park	TQ277947	Queen Mary Res	TQ070695
Oak Hill Wood	TQ280952	Queen Mother Res	TQ017773
Oakend Wood	TQ020890	Queens Wood, Highgate	TQ283887
Oakmere Park	TL264014	Rainham GP	TQ549829
Old Parkbury	TL163023	Rainham Marsh	TQ525800
Old Slade Lake	TQ040780	Rammey Marsh	TQ996374
Oid Wood, Richings Park	TQ031781	Ranston Covert	TQ041890
One Tree Hill, Honor Oak	TQ354743	Ravensbury Park	TQ268681
Ongar Park Wood	TL495025	Ravenscourt Park	TQ223790
Orlitts North Lake	TQ041780	Raynes Park	TQ231684
Orlitts South Lake	TQ039775	Regent's Park	TQ277830
Orsett Fen	TQ628833	Reigate Hill	TQ255522
Osterley Park	TQ145780	Richings Park	TQ030794
Oxhey Wood	TQ105925	Richmond Park	TQ200730
Oxleas Wood	TQ450686	Rickmansworth Aquadrome	TQ057940
Oxted, Hurst Green	TQ396512	Riddlesdown	TQ326602
Oylers Farm	TL350005	Ridgehill	TL202025
Panshanger Park	TL283130	Riverside Open Space	TQ143693
Park Downs, Banstead	TQ267585	Rockingham Rec Ground	TQ058837
Park Farm, Chessington	TQ181623	Roding Valley Meadows	TQ435956
Park Farm, Enfield	TQ292983	Roehyde	TL210010
Park Street GP	TL149024	Rowdow Wood	TQ547595
Park Wood	TQ095890	Rowley Farm	TQ004828
Parkland Walk	TQ294902	Royal Albert Dock	TQ425807
Parkside Farm/Res, Enfield	TQ303982	Royal Oak Lake	TQ034915
Parndon Meads	TL433113	Royal Victoria Dock	TQ410807
Paynes Lane GP	TL380052	Ruislip Common	TQ085893
Paynesfield North Lake	TQ038912	Ruislip Gardens	TQ095863
Paynesfield South Lake	TQ035910	Ruislip Lido	TQ089891
Peckham Rye Park	TQ348750	Rush Green, Hertford	TL350127
Pen Ponds, Richmond Park	TQ200730	Rushett Farm	TQ173608
Penton Hook	TQ043692	Ruxley GP	TQ473700
Perry Oaks SF	TQ054758	Rye House Marsh	TL383103
Petersham Meadows	TQ180736	Rye Meads SF	TL388102
Petts Wood	TQ445670	Salisbury Hall Farm	TL195028
Pickett's Lock	TQ361945	Sanderstead	TQ344614
Pilvage Wood	TL236028	Savay Lake	TQ049880
Pinner Park	TQ132905	Saxten's Wood	TQ585648
Polhill	TQ500610	Scadbury Park	TQ455700
Pond Wood	TL279006	Scotsbridge Meadows	TQ064955
Ponders End Lake	TQ362946	Scratch Wood, Surrey	TQ271593
Poplar Docks	TQ382803	Sevenoaks WR	TQ522570
Post Wood	TL363131	Sewardstone	TQ379985
Potters Bar	TL250012	Shadwell Basin	TQ352807
Potters Crouch Plantation	TL103050	Sheen Common	TQ196746
Prae Wood	TQ120070	Sheepwash Pond	TQ224928
Primrose Hill	TQ276839	Shenleybury	TL183018
Prince George's Playing Fields	TQ235688	Shepherds Bush	TQ228805
Princes Coverts	TQ160610	Shepperton GP	TQ065674
Purfleet	TQ550783	Silvertown	TQ412799
Purfleet Chalk Pits	TQ566785	Slip Lane GP	TL370049
Putney Heath	TQ230739	Smallford GP	TL198071
Pygro Park	TQ524935	Sopwell Mill, St Albans	TL154054
Queen Elizabeth II Res	TQ120670	South Harrow	TQ135861
Queen Mary GP	TQ059700	South Norwood CP	TQ353684

South Norwood Lake	TQ341693	Thorpe Water Park	TQ030681
South Ruislip	TQ115860	Tilehouse North Lake	TQ038898
Southwood Manor Farm	TQ116632	Tilehouse South Lake	TQ038896
Sparrows Wood	TQ436667	Titsey	TQ409551
Spitalfields/Bishopsgate	TQ334818	Tolpits Lake	TQ085943
Spring Ponds	TQ165932	Tolworth	TQ194659
Springfield Marina	TQ347878	Tottenham Cemetery	TQ333911
Springwell Lake	TQ043932	Tottenham Lock	TQ348895
Springwell Lock	TQ044923	Tottenham Marsh	TQ354910
Springwell Reedbed	TQ041924	Totteridge Long Pond	TQ234942
St Anns Hill, Chertsey	TQ038674	Tower Bridge	TQ337802
St James's Park	TQ294798	Tower of London	TQ337806
St Saviour's Creek, SE1	TQ340799	Tower Wood, Westerham	TQ448528
St Thomas's Hospital	TQ307793	Trent Park	TQ290970
Stain Hill Res	TQ124693	Trevereux/Swaynesland	TQ433504
Staines Moor	TQ033734	Troy Mill Lake	TQ039905
Staines Res	TQ051731	Turnford Brook	TL368037
Stanborough Lakes	TL230108	Turnford Marsh GP	TL370044
Stanmore CP	TQ175930	Tyler's Common, Upminster	TQ568907
Stanmore Common	TQ156940	Tyttenhanger GP	TQ191865
Stanstead Abbots GP	TL391109	Upper Halliford	TQ091680
Stanwell Moor	TQ040743	Upper Norwood	TQ329699
Stanwell Moor GP	TQ034744	Vauxhall Bridge	TQ303781
Stapleford Tawney	TQ503900	Verulamium Lake	TL140070
Streatham Common	TQ305709	Vicarage Farm, Enfield	TQ305975
Stocker's Lake	TQ046935	Victoria Park	TQ360837
Stocker's West Lake	TQ042934	Waddon Ponds	TQ309650
Stocker's Farm	TQ053934	Walligton Green Nurseries	TQ290625
Stockley Park	TQ080790	Walsingham Wood	TL243040
Stoke Newington Res	TQ326876	Waltham Cross	TL362003
Stone Chalk Pit	TQ566753	Waltham Cross GP	TL369006
Stone Lake	TQ565752	Waltham Marsh	TL373013
Stone Marsh	TQ568755	Walthamstow Marsh	TQ350878
Sundridge Park	TQ410700	Walthamstow Res	TQ353980
Surrey Docks	TQ360797	Walton Heath	TQ232540
Sutton at Hone Lakes	TQ560700	Walton Res	TQ122685
Swanscombe Marsh	TQ605760	Wanstead Park	TQ415875
Sydenham Hill	TQ335722	Warley Place	TQ582909
Symondshyde Great Wood	TL195110	Warlingham	TQ358581
Syon Park	TQ175765	Waterlow Park	TQ286872
Tandridge	TQ376505	Watermeads	TQ275675
Tatling End	TQ020870	Waterworks NR	TQ363868
Telegraph Hill, Claygate	TQ159647	Watts Wood, Purfleet	TQ565788
Ten Acre Wood	TQ094720	Weald Park	TQ570945
Thames Ditton	TQ158673	Welham Green	TL235055
Thamesmead	TQ474811	Wells Park	TQ345717
The Basin, Edgware	TQ188919	West Byfleet	TQ048607
The Causeway NR	TQ105754	West End Common	TQ125632
The Clump, Iver Heath	TQ022845	West Hyde Fields	TQ030910
Theobalds Park, Enfield	TL345005	West India South Dock	TQ376800
Thistledene, Thames Ditton	TQ155673	West Kingsdown	TQ580626
Thrift's Pit	TL366132	West Ruislip GC	TQ081872
Thorndon Park	TQ620916	West Thurrock	TQ582770
Thorney CP	TQ048790	Westerham Heights	TQ430560
Thorney Weir Lake Lake	TQ051799	Westminster Bridge	TQ305796

Wey Meadows, Weybridge	TQ067645	Wood Green Res	TQ304900
Whitgift Centre, Croydon	TQ323657	Woodford GC	TQ395928
Whippendell Wood	TL075978	Woodlands Park	TQ038830
Whitewebbs Wood/Lake	TQ325997	Woodlands Park Lake	TQ043826
Whyteleafe	TQ337582	Woodmansterne	TQ276597
Willett Wood	TQ452685	Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross	TQ033933
Wimbledon Common	TQ247723	Worcester Park	TQ222655
Wimbledon Park	TQ246723	Wormley Wood	TL322058
Wimbledon Park Lake	TQ247724	Wormwood Scrubs	TQ221818
Winchmore Hill	TQ316946	Wraysbury GP	TQ015735
Windsor Open Space	TQ241905	Wraysbury Res	TQ025745
Winterdown Woods	TQ123622	Yeadon Brook Meadows	TQ105835
Wintry Wood	TL475035	Yiewsley Lake	TQ050804
Wm Girling Res	TQ367945		
Woldingham	TQ370572		



REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2001

For many birdwatchers, 2001 will be remembered mainly as 'the foot-and-mouth year'. The livestock disease broke out alarmingly in several parts of the UK during the early months, and as a result many rural and urban-fringe areas were ruled out of bounds, as the authorities tried to restrict the transmission of the disease. The rights and wrongs of this policy were fiercely debated, but for many of us the crisis meant that our favourite footpath, reservoir, farmland or wood became off-limits for much of the late winter and spring.

It was no surprise, then, that 2001 was not a classic year for scarce or rare birds, or that the recording of some other species was patchier than usual. Still, London did record a 'first': a Blyth's Reed Warbler which lurked near Canary Wharf during October; and other notable sightings included Cattle Egret (third for the London area), Rose-coloured Starling (7th), Yellow-browed Warbler (13th) and Richard's Pipit (20th).

More happily, 2001 was also a 'Waxwing year', and early in the year most birdwatchers had the opportunity to enjoy some of these most welcome avian visitors in a park or garden close to their home or workplace.

JANUARY

The year opened with a small cast of quality birds lingering from 2000. Most noteworthy were **Great Northern Divers**, with a rare trio delighting observers at Staines Reservoirs and a single at Littlebrook Lake. Other wildfowl included drake **Garganey** at Rye Meads, **Common Scoter** at King George V and **Scaup** at Brent Res (2) and Swanscombe Marsh. Ten **Turnstones** at the last site were a good record, and further up the Thames the wintering adult **Ring-billed Gull** entertained (or eluded) watchers at Woolwich or the Isle of Dogs until March. In the north of the LNHS area, up to three **Bitterns** were to be admired at Amwell GP. Mid-winter **Little Gulls** – always uncommon – showed up from 4th in ones, twos or threes around London, with Staines Res also pulling in a **Red-breasted Merganser** from the same date.

White-winged gulls were to enjoy another good year, and this month a **Glaucous Gull** called in at Queen Elizabeth II Res and Beddington SF; on 6th, the one at QEII coincided with an **Iceland Gull**, a noteworthy event in our area. Another **Glaucous Gull** was seen several times at Rainham Marsh from 6th. On the same date, a male **Hen Harrier** flew over Headley Heath and two wandering **Woodlarks** flew over Hornchurch CP. Next day, more **Scaup** turned up at East India Dock Basin and at Thamesmere Lakes (2), with two also at Royal Albert Dock on 12th. Three **White-fronted Geese** began a long stay at Staines Moor from 13th; surprisingly, the only ones this year. On 14th, a **Red-throated Diver** rewarded duck-counters at Queen Mary Res, and further wildfowl included single **Scaup** at Beckton SW and Hilfield Park Res, plus the year's peak count of 29 **Smew** at Wraysbury GP. On the same date, a **Shag** was an unexpected visitor to Langley Park and a **Cetti's Warbler** appeared at Rye House Marsh; the last species was to enjoy a year of resurgence in London. 15th featured a **Merlin** at East India Dock Basin and 17th drew a **Red-breasted Merganser** to King George V Reservoir, where on 20th six superb **Bean Geese** delighted one lucky observer. The next few days were unproductive, but then

25th featured a **Ring-billed Gull** at King George V, 26th a fresh **Glaucous Gull** at Beddington SF, 27th a **Red-breasted Merganser** at Wraysbury GP, and 28th a singing **Cetti's Warbler** at Broxbourne GP (staying to March), plus a rare winter **Ring Ouzel** in a Kingston-upon-Thames garden.

Exotic **Waxwings** cheered winter birders across the capital throughout the month, with the best counts being up to 20 in a Tesco carpark at Brooklands, and 12 also in Surrey at New Malden.

FEBRUARY

Long-stayers included the three **Great Northern Divers** at Staines Res, the three **White-fronted Geese** at Staines Moor and the **Ring Ouzel** at Kingston, which was seen three times during the month. An **Iceland Gull** in the evening roost at Queen Mother Reservoir got the month underway. Seven **Hawfinches** at Broxbourne Woods on 3rd constituted a high count of this diminished species, and the same day a **Red-breasted Merganser** appeared at Staines. Wildfowl on 7th featured a single **Common Scoter** at King George V and the year's peak count of 41 **Goosander** at Queen Elizabeth II Res. Gulls at this time included **Glaucous Gull** at Rainham Marsh on 10th and adult **Kittiwake** next day at Island Barn Res. Island Barn featured again on 14th, when a **Red-necked Grebe** began a substantial stay.

On the flooded Staines Moor, the long-staying geese were joined only on 16th by three **Pink-footed Geese**: still a considerable rarity in London. Next day, a **Red-breasted Merganser** dropped in at King George V Res, then on 18th waterbirds included a **Red-necked Grebe** at Shepperton GP and **Common Scoters** at QEII and Staines reservoirs. **Ring-necked Parakeets**, were again counted in large numbers roosting at Esher RFC, and the highest count of 2001 was a whopping 3080, made on 21st. **Kittiwakes** – characteristically moving overland at this season – dropped in at Beddington SF on 22nd-23rd (4), with possibly the same birds being seen at QEII Res and Hersham GP; another single was at Stocker's Lake on 24th.

During the last week of February, many productive birding sites became inaccessible as the authorities tried to restrict the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, and this certainly put the brakes on the spring for many birders. A new **Scaup** was found at Brent Res on 28th, but the main reward for observers at unprohibited sites was the discovery of more **Waxwings** at the end of the month. These included a glorious flock of 46 at Childerditch Common in Essex, with other double-figure groups at Brentwood, Redhill and Rickmansworth.

MARCH

The month got off to a flier with a **Fulmar** seen over the London Wetland Centre and perhaps the same later at Beddington SF, where it stayed until 2nd, being then picked up in poor condition. Other typical early migrants included a **Kittiwake** at Erith Reach on 3rd and, next day, splendid gatherings at Swanscombe Marsh of **Jack Snipe** (11), **Turnstones** (23) and **Rock Pipits** (20, with some showing the rosy hues of Scandinavian *littoralis*). The Staines Moor **White-fronted Geese** lingered, and the Kingston **Ring Ouzel** still lurked, but a quiet spell then ensued, with two **Scaup** from 9th at the Thames Barrier the best new arrivals. A remarkable record of 20 **Grey Plovers** at Beddington SF was a highlight on 16th, then a **Marsh Harrier** appeared next day at Amwell GP.

Gradually, spring migration became more obvious despite the access restrictions. 20th brought an **Avocet** to South Norwood CP and a first-winter **Iceland Gull** to the Isle of Dogs riverbank. Next day a **Scaup** appeared at Walthamstow Res, then on 22nd the first **Black-necked Grebes** returned to their breeding site at Hilfield Park Res, and an **Iceland Gull** was found at Queen Mother Res. An early **Black-tailed Godwit** dropped in at the London Wetland Centre on 23rd, then on 24th a **Bar-tailed** was seen at Walthamstow Res and a huge passage of 700 **Meadow Pipits** streamed over the established 'vis. mig.' hotspot of Hampstead Heath. Brent Res scored an **Avocet** on 25th, when a **Marsh Harrier** was seen at Stocker's Lake, then further visible passage on 27th featured a high total (in context) of 15 **Bramblings** at Regent's Park. An early male **Blue-headed Wagtail** must have been a heart-warming sight at the London Wetland Centre on 28th, and several **Firecrests** also perked observers up around this time. However, the month's top prize was an adult **Kumlien's Gull**, tracked between two Bucks localities on 29th. Amwell GP logged another early **Marsh Harrier** the same day, and a handsome **Red Kite** at Trent Park wrapped up the month.

For many London birders there were still **Waxwings** to enjoy throughout March, with up to 14 at Redhill, and parties of 13 at Blackheath and Chingford and ten at Tolworth.

APRIL

Fittingly, the London spring got a boost on 1st with a fine range of migrants. **Ospreys** moved through at Amwell GP and Queen Mother Res, and there was a **Red Kite** at Hilfield Park Res. Supporting birds included a pair of **Garganey** at Dagenham Chase, **Ring Ouzel** at Walthamstow Res and a high count (these days) of at least 40 **Lesser Redpolls** at Joyden's Wood. A **Black-tailed Godwit** kicked off the wader passage at Beddington SF on 2nd, then next day Dagenham Chase pulled in two male **Ring Ouzels**, with **Nightingale** and **Redstart** arriving elsewhere in our area. Further pairs of **Garganey** appeared at Hornchurch CP (5th), the London Wetland Centre (8th) and Berwick Ponds (9th), with an immature **Iceland Gull** performing for observers at Rainham Marsh on the middle date; two **Red Kite** sightings were also logged in Surrey on 9th. One of these was at Beddington SF, where observers on 12th watched (and videoed) an astonishingly early northbound **Honey Buzzard**. A **Wood Sandpiper** the same day at Tyttenhanger GP was nearly as surprising. 14th brought an excellent gathering of 14 **White Wagtails** to Rainham Marsh and a male **Ring Ouzel** to Brent Res, and Beddington SF produced a fly-over **Osprey** on 15th.

An immature **Shag** was an unexpected visitor to Hooks Marsh in the Lea Valley on 16th, then next day a **Merlin** whizzed north at Queen Mother Res. Also in the Lea Valley, one or more **Cetti's Warblers** were seen and heard from 18th. Salt-water birds featured at Island Barn Res on 19th, where a **Common Scoter** and two **Kittiwakes** were seen, and again next day when seven beautiful **Arctic Terns** were identified. **Grasshopper Warbler** records came from four sites on 21st, when a male **Pied Flycatcher** entertained Brent Res birders. A scattering of typical late-April migrants appeared from 22nd, including **Common Scoter**, **Garganey**, both **godwits**, **Little Gulls** and **Black Terns**. Beddington SF hosted **Wood Sandpiper** and ten **Arctic Terns** on 24th, when a **Little Tern** called in at King George V and a male **Pied Flycatcher** was seen briefly at Ruislip. Other oddments included **Marsh Harrier** at the London Wetland Centre on 25th. More migration on 28th saw a **Little Tern** at Staines and seven **Sandwich Terns** at Beddington, two **Spotted Redshanks** at

Horton GP, **Ring Ouzel** at Barn Elms and the year's first **Wood Warbler** in Surrey. Next day, further **Pied Flycatchers** were at Horsenden Hill and Wimbledon Common, then on 30th another male **Ring Ouzel** was found at Bushy Park.

MAY

This normally exciting month found many birders still stymied by access restrictions to their regular haunts, and must go down as the poorest May for years. Even so, it contained plenty of interest. On May Day, a **Marsh Harrier** appeared at Rainham, a drake **Scaup** at Hogsmill SF (another lingered nearly all month at Walthamstow Res) and seven **Arctic Terns** at Staines. Highlight of the whole month was a **White Stork** over Berwick Ponds on 2nd; on the same date, three **Bar-tailed Godwits** flew over Island Barn Res. On 3rd, impressive counts of 2000+ **Swifts** were logged at both Rye Meads and Staines Res. A **Red Kite** flew over Purley on 5th. Next day featured waders on the move: star bird was a widely enjoyed **Temminck's Stint** at Sevenoaks, but **Greenshanks** appeared at many sites, with nine at Brent Res a notable spring count. Quality birds then continued to trickle through, with **Marsh Harrier** at Berwick Ponds on 7th, two **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Amwell GP on 8th (and several elsewhere over the next few days), two **Arctic Skuas** at Island Barn and two **Little Terns** at King George VI on 9th, **Wood Sandpiper** at Wimbledon Common on 10th, and next day **Marsh Harrier** at Staines Moor, plus a late **Short-eared Owl** at King George V. 12th produced a light movement of terns, with 16 **Arctic** and 12 **Black** at Staines the best counts; there was a **Little Tern** at the same site. There was plenty to enjoy on 13th, with a **Gannet** over Colnbrook the top rarity, supported by 11 **Arctic Terns** and a **Wood Sandpiper** at Amwell, with a scattering of **Grey Plovers** that included four at Staines Moor.

By the second half of May, migration was tapering off, but further northbound birds included seven **Arctic Terns** at the London Wetland Centre on 15th and **Little Terns** at Staines Res on 16th and Horton GP on 17th, with a **Wood Sandpiper** at Amwell on the last date. A long-staying **Great Northern Diver** was still at King George VI from 18th. 20th produced a flyover **Marsh Harrier** at the London Wetland Centre and a short-staying drake **Ring-necked Duck** at Hilfield Park Res. A major surprise on 22nd was a **Guillemot** which allowed close approach in Surrey Docks! Oddities in the final week included **Little Stint** at Ponders End Lake on 24th and **Quail** at Chipstead Lake next day. Rainham Marsh experienced a sudden purple patch in the next few days, hosting a **Marsh Warbler** on 26th (and into June), a **Temminck's Stint** on 27th and – best of all - a ringtail **Montagu's Harrier** on 28th.

JUNE

As usual, an uneventful month for migrants and scarcities, but busy with nesting activity. Highlights of the first week were a count of 16 **Sanderling** at King George VI on 2nd, **Red Kite** in the Lea Valley on 3rd and **Marsh Harrier** in the Barking area on 6th. Later surprises included a **Little Stint** at the London Wetland Centre from 10th (when a **Scaup** began a two-week stay at Walthamstow Res), up to six **Little Egrets** at Rainham Marsh, another **Little Stint** at Tyttenhanger GP on 25th, and two **Black-tailed Godwits** at Rainham on 28th, with one at Beddington next day. Several **Crossbills** flying over late in the month hinted at wider movement.

This year's **BREEDING SEASON** carried its usual mixture of good and bad news for our bird populations. Headlines were made by the first successful nesting of

Peregrines in Inner London, and pairs probably bred at two other sites on the Lower Thames. **Buzzards** raised one young in Essex, and in the same sector a pair of **Black-necked Grebes** was successful. **Cetti's Warblers** were thought to have nested in the Lea Valley, a welcome comeback for an always-scarce species. Finally, heading the list of exotica establishing a toehold in our avifauna, came news of a pair of **Blue-crowned Parakeets** which laid eggs in suburban Kent: the first 'wild' breeding attempt in the UK by this South American species.

JULY

Quiet for the first week, with odd reports of **Black-tailed Godwits** leading the return wader passage, which also featured a **Wood Sandpiper** at Hornchurch CP on 6th. Migrant terns included **Black Tern** at Amwell GP from 11th-12th and **Little Tern** at East India Dock Basin on 13th, when another **Wood Sandpiper** appeared at Beddington. **Crossbills** included 24 over Dartford Marsh on 14th and 12 at Dawcombe next day. At Rainham, wader numbers began to swell in the third week and included 23 **Little Ringed Plovers** on 15th. A wandering **Honey Buzzard** at Moorhouse was noteworthy on 17th, when another **Black Tern** arrived at Queen Elizabeth II Res; at the latter site, five **Whimbrel** flew through next morning. Three more **Black Terns** dropped in at Queen Mother Res on 20th.

More passage waders now appeared, with **Black-tailed Godwits** widespread in small numbers, **Wood Sandpipers** at Rainham, in the Lea Valley and at the London Wetland Centre and **Knot** at Queen Elizabeth II. The month grew busier in its final week: 27th drew three further **Black Terns** to Queen Mother Res and the year's peak of 42 **Green Sandpipers** to Rainham; a new **Scaup** popped up at King George VI Res, but the bird of the moment was **Wood Sandpiper**, with two at Rainham on 27th, three at Stanwell Moor and two at the London Wetland Centre from 28th. 64 **Yellow-legged Gulls** had dispersed as far as Queen Mother Res on 28th, too, while 27 **Common Sandpipers** teetered around King George VI on 30th. Finally, a migrant **Wood Warbler** at Victoria Park on 31st pointed to burgeoning songbird migration.

AUGUST

The year's first **Curlew Sandpiper** made a welcome appearance at Tyttenhanger GP on 1st, then the next few days brought a couple of surprises with a **Shag** on the Thames at Barnes on 2nd and an unseasonable **Ring Ouzel** at Dagenham Chase on 4th. The first **Marsh Harrier** of the autumn appeared at Amwell on 5th, to be followed by two others during the month. Tyttenhanger pulled in a **Little Stint** on 6th, but the headline bird that day was a migrant **Stone Curlew**, spotted flying over Queen Elizabeth II Res. Next day saw the return of the regular **Ring-billed Gull** to the Greenwich/Isle of Dogs/Woolwich area, and parties of migrant **Black-tailed Godwits** appeared widely from this time. Other early migrants included three **Little Terns** at Queen Elizabeth II on 9th and three scattered **Wood Warblers**; at Rainham, waders included three **Wood Sandpipers** from 12th.

As usual, migration grew in variety from the third week, with odd **Redstarts** and **Pied Flycatchers** spicing things up. A widespread passage of **Black Terns** commenced on 18th, with 26 at King George VI Res; good numbers were recorded up to 27th, with peak counts of 85 at King George VI on 23rd and, on the Thames, of 65 at Beckton on 26th. Also on 18th, a **Cattle Egret** (London's third record) delighted observers for a few hours at the London Wetland Centre, while five **Sandwich Terns** were at

Dartford Marsh. Highlight of a good wader day on 19th was the arrival of six **Wood Sandpipers** at Stanwell Moor; nearby at King George VI, fly-throughs included two **Grey Plovers** and 13 **Greenshank**, while two **Arctic Skuas** showed up at Queen Mother Res. Walton Res attracted a **Red-necked Grebe** on 20th, a day when Weald Park held an impressive 18 **Spotted Flycatchers**. Migrant **Yellow Wagtails** peaked at 120 at Rainham on 24th, while among other passerines on the move, widespread **Crossbill** records again stood out, including a count of 21 at Frogmore Meadow on 26th. The same day, a **Spotted Redshank** called at Beddington SF. The end of the month featured broad diversity, notably **Red Kite** at Walton Res on 27th, eight **Sandwich Terns** at Queen Mother and ten **Turnstones** at King George VI on 28th, and **Honey Buzzard** at Beddington on 30th, plus a wide scattering of **Whinchats**, **Redstarts** and **Pied Flycatchers**.

SEPTEMBER

Migration was in full swing during the first week, with passerines such as **Redstarts** at their peak and up to 110 **Yellow Wagtails** flocking at Rainham. Two popular rarities sparked local twitches: a **Hoopoe** which lingered at Osterley Park from 2nd-6th and a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Queen Mother Res on 3rd-4th. A **Red-necked Grebe** appeared at King George V Res on 3rd, while neighbouring Wm Girling Res attracted two **Spotted Redshanks** on 5th. **Marsh Harriers** passed through King George VI on 6th and Rainham on 23rd. Wm Girling stayed in the picture on 8th, when a juvenile **Temminck's Stint** was found there.

Oddities on 10th featured **Scaup** at King George VI and **Red Kite** over Chingford Plain, then a fine quartet of juvenile **Spoonbills** (probably of Dutch origin) drew many birders to Stanwell Moor on 11th. The year's only **Pectoral Sandpiper** began an eight-day stay at Rainham on 14th, and the marsh was to provide later September peaks of five **Curlew Sandpipers** and ten **Little Stints**. 16th produced an unexpected foretaste of winter, when **Fieldfares** appeared at two sites. Many **Sandwich Terns** passed through in the second half of the month, with notable counts of 20 at the London Wetland Centre on 17th and an amazing 55 there on 29th; elsewhere, ten were at Dartford Marsh on 18th and 16 at Queen Elizabeth II on 30th. 18th was memorable at Beddington SF, where observers logged **Arctic Skua**, eight **Knot**, four **Little Stints** and a **Wood Sandpiper**; while excellent finds on the Thames that day were **Temminck's Stint** at Rainham and **Roseate Tern** at Barking Bay. **Gannet** and **Osprey** flew over Beddington SF on 19th, when a **Honey Buzzard** was brought low by poor weather at Limpsfield Chart.

Over the next couple of days, a **Goshawk** visited Bushy Park on 20th and an early **Brambling** was a surprise at Amwell GP on 21st; as early as 25th, as many as 70 **Fieldfares** were logged at Regent's Park. The variety of migration declined noticeably late in the month, but there was still time for a rare **Purple Sandpiper** at Queen Mother Res on 24th, when three **Spotted Redshanks** appeared at the London Wetland Centre. **Ospreys** were next in the news, with singles over Brent Res on 25th at Hampstead Heath, Paddington Green (W2), Trent Park and Walton Res on 26th and Richmond Park on 29th. A **Ring Ouzel** was a welcome visitor to Epping Forest on 27th.

OCTOBER

Wader passage was still prominent in the first week of the month, with **Curlew Sandpiper** and up to ten **Little Stints** at Rainham, and two **Grey Plover** at

Beddington SF on 7th. 6th was an extraordinary day which produced several rarities. Heading the cast were London's first **Blyth's Reed Warbler**, which skulked near Canary Wharf until 28th, and a short-staying juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** in New Malden. Other goodies included a drake **Ferruginous Duck** at Netherhall GP, male **Hen Harrier** at Rainham, an amazing 45 **Knot** over Regent's Park, and 15 **Sandwich Terns** on the Thames at Dartford. The first returning **Bittern** showed up in the Lea Valley on 4th and **Ring Ouzels** appeared at two sites.

Late tern migration was an interesting feature of the next few days. Two **Arctic Terns** lingered until 17th at Walton Res and another was on the river at Crossness on 10th. **Black Terns** appeared at several reservoirs and Thames-side localities; on 17th there were as many as 17 at the London Wetland Centre and 19 at Queen Elizabeth II Res. A very late **Little Tern** accompanied the latter flock. The productive Walton reservoirs also attracted a **Grey Phalarope** on 13th, and observers had enjoyed other examples of this little beauty at King George VI Res from 9th and at Banbury Res from 12th. Other finds in this period included **Grey Plover** at Staines Res on 8th, **Spotted Redshank** at Rainham on 9th, **Scaup** at Beddington on 11th, **Marsh Harrier** at Chipstead Lake on 12th and, on 14th, **Woodlark** at Regent's Park, **Pied Flycatcher** at Middlesex Filter Beds and the year's only **Lapland Bunting** at Queen Elizabeth II.

Variety then declined again, but migrants from Scandinavia (or points east) began to dominate, with three **Ring Ouzels** at Regent's Park on 18th and **Scaup** at King George VI next day. An influx of waterbirds on 20th brought **Red-necked Grebe** to King George V Res, **Brent Goose** to Brent Res and **Red-breasted Mergansers** to Dartford Marsh and Staines Res. 15 **Avocets** and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** visited Rainham on 21st, then on 23rd **Black-necked Grebes** peaked at 18 at London's premier site, Wm Girling Res. Next day, **Cetti's Warblers** were found at Amwell GP and Swanscombe Marsh. Incoming **Woodpigeons** were being logged in huge numbers at this time with, for example, up to 5000 over Hampstead Heath in the mornings. Odd **Black Terns** lingered at the end of the month, and **Ring Ouzels** put on a late show, with up to four in Bushy Park, two at Chingford Plain and one at Stubbers OPC. Star bird of the final few days was a **Yellow-browed Warbler** at Waterworks NR on 28th, with a sprinkling of other late migrants including **Marsh Harrier**, **Merlin** and **Woodlark**. **Black Redstart** and **Brambling** reports were widespread.

NOVEMBER

A final **Black Tern** remained at King George VI until 4th, and late migrant **Ring Ouzels** were logged on 2nd and 14th. Otherwise, however, the story featured winter birds appearing widely: **Bitterns** at Amwell GP and in the Lea Valley, **Scaup** at King George V and the London Wetland Centre, a **Red-breasted Merganser** at the last site, **Merlin** at Queen Elizabeth II, **Hen Harrier** at Regent's Park, **Dartford Warbler** at Nonsuch Park and **Short-eared Owl** at Brent Res, all in the first week. Top rarity was a female **Ferruginous Duck** at Amwell on 3rd-4th.

A busy period then ensued. The highlight was a brief (and late) **Richard's Pipit** at Lake Farm, Hayes, on 10th – a date when 1270 inbound **Fieldfares** streamed over the London Wetland Centre. Quality was also provided by an early **Black-throated Diver** at Island Barn Res from 9th, and the supporting cast throughout the area included several **Kittiwakes** and **Little Gulls**, four **Knot** at Queen Mother Res on 9th, **Scaup** at Amwell on 10th and at Island Barn from 13th, three **Common Scoter** at

King George VI from 12th and **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Staines (two) and Sevenoaks.

Late November was predictably quieter, but still produced **Red-throated Diver** (from 19th) and **Black-throated Diver** (from 23rd) at Queen Mother Res, and a **Ring-necked Duck** at Walton Res from 25th. A **Knot** appeared at Walton Res on 16th, **Scaup** at Island Barn from 17th (2) and Brent Res on 24th, **Bewick's Swan** over Island Barn on 27th, two **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Staines Res from 28th and a **Shag** at Island Barn from 30th.

DECEMBER

The month featured an enviable purple patch at the Walton group of reservoirs, which attracted a procession of interesting birds. These included a late **Garganey** on two dates and two lingering **Scaup**. One **Velvet Scoter** appeared from 7th and a separate group of four from 9th; all remained into 2002. **Brent Goose** and **Snow Bunting** were logged on 8th, then next day a **Long-tailed Duck** dropped in. A migrant **Woodlark** flew over on 19th: not a bad showing during what can be a quiet winter month!

Elsewhere, a **Short-eared Owl** flew over Brent Res on 1st, with further reports of this species coming from four other sites during December. **Jack Snipe** reached a notable peak of 20 at Horton GP on 6th, then next day a female **Ring-necked Duck** began a long stay in a small suburban park at Ewell (Surrey). Three **Woodlarks** at Yeading Brook Meadows made a nice find on 8th, and next day four **Waxwings** turned up at Cheshunt. William Girling attracted one of the year's few **Red-necked Grebes** on 13th, then next day newly-arrived wildfowl included a superb flock of 27 **Bewick's Swans** at Netherhall GP, as well as new **Scaup** at the London Wetland Centre and Wraysbury GP (2). Seven **Bewick's** called in at Amwell GP on 15th and two more **Scaup** appeared at Queen Mother Res from 16th, when a **Spotted Redshank** was an unusual visitor to Beddington SF. The latter site attracted adult **Iceland Gulls** on 26th and 31st, and one was also in the Queen Mother Res roost from 31st. The year closed with records of a **Red-breasted Merganser** at King George V Res on 30th and 45 **Redpolls** at Walton Heath on 31st.

Notable counts made during the month included 207 **Shelduck** and 1028 **Teal** at Barking Bay/Marsh on 16th, 1309 **Pochard** at King George VI Res on 11th, 23 **Rock Pipits** at Rainham Marsh on 15th and 14 **Water Pipits** there on 29th. As a final surprise, a survey using pre-recorded tape tallied an amazing 52 **Water Rails** at the London Wetland Centre on 15th!



Contributors to the Systematic List

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2001 are listed below, a new high of 609. We apologise if any names have been inadvertently omitted. Many records of scarce species listed in this *LBR* are attributed to the observer who found or reported the bird and the attribution normally consists of the observer's initials. However if more than one observer possesses the same initials, a letter from the attributed observer's surname may be used.

J Abbott (JAb)	C Bates (CBs)	J Buchanan (JBuc)
D Abrahams (DAb)	T Bates (TB)	M Buckell (MBuc)
N Agar (NAr)	LA Batten (LAB)	Bucks Bird Club (BBC)
J Aldred (JAl)	PA Baumber (PABau)	R Bullock (RBk)
P Alfrey (PAy)	M Baverstock (MBav)	R Bullock (RB)
JP Allan (JPA)	J Beard (JBea)	M Bunce (MBce)
PSA Allday (PSAA)	A Beck (ABe)	A Burrows (ABu)
M Amos (MA)	J Beckett (JBec)	J Butcher (JBut)
J Anderson (JAn)	R Beddard (RBd)	C Butler (CB)
M Anderson (MAN)	Beddington Bird Report (BBR)	M Butler (MBut)
N Anderson (NAn)	J Bedford (JBed)	PJ Bysh (PJB)
D Andrews (DAn)	AA Bell (AAB)	M Cabourn-Smith (MC-S)
M Andrews (MA)	I Bennell (IBe)	GD Caine (GDC)
R Andrews (RA)	BT Bennett (BTB)	TS Caine (TSC)
RD Andrews (RDA)	N Bentley (NBe)	RM Calf (RMC)
J Appleton (JA)	JR Bexley (JRB)	FR Cannings (FRC)
J Arbon (JAr)	Herts Bird Club (HBC)	G Carr (GC)
BM Archer (BMA)	J Birkett (JBi)	I Cater (IC)
BP Aris (BPA)	R Blackburn (RBn)	MN Chaffe (MNC)
S Arlow (SA)	RA Blades (RAB)	V Chambers (VC)
RJ Arnfield (RJA)	A Blake (ABl)	PJ Charles (PJC)
P Atkinson (PAn)	S Blanchas (SBl)	JP Charteris (JPC)
T Austin (TA)	L Bodini (LBo)	A Cheeseman (AChn)
S Bacon (SBn)	N Bond (NBo)	J Chester (JCh)
P Baglee (PBa)	DJ Booth (DJB)	A Childs (AChs)
G Bailey (GB)	RG Booth (RGB)	D Chinnery (DCy)
S Bailey (SBa)	Al Bowman (AIB)	P Chinnery (PCy)
H Baker (HBr)	J Brace (JBr)	A Clancy (ACl)
JH Baker (JHB)	PA Bradley (PABra)	P Clark (PCK)
C Bantock (CBk)	C Bradshaw (CBr)	JR Clarke (JRC)
H Bantock (HBk)	H Bradshaw (HBw)	BD Clews (BDC)
T Bantock (TBk)	K Brandwood (KBra)	Herts Birds Club (HBC)
SE Barbato (SEB)	M Braun (MBra)	M Coath (MCh)
E Barber (EBr)	P Brayshaw (PBw)	H Coe (HC)
M Barber (MBar)	M Brett (MBt)	DA Coleman (DAC)
N Barlow (NB)	I Brice (IBr)	M Collard (MCd)
Barn Elms Natural History Group (BENHG)	P Briggs (PBs)	C Collins (CC)
E Barnes (EB)	A Bright (ABr)	CP Collins (CPC)
R Barnes (RBs)	K Broadfield (KBro)	M Collins (MCs)
K Barrett (KBa)	R Broadie (RBe)	J Colmans (JCol)
PA Barrett (PABt)	P Bromhead (PBd)	S Connor (SC)
J Barrington (JBa)	TW Broome (TWB)	C Conroy (CCo)
I Barthorpe (IBa)	D Brougham (DB)	P Cook (PCo)
	MP Brown (MPB)	M Cooper (MCr)

R Cope (RCo)	R Emmens (REm)	P Greening (PGr)
DS Corben (DSC)	D England (DEn)	D Griffin (DG)
P Cornelius (PCs)	HW Evans (HWE)	W Griffin (WG)
RJ Cornish (RJC)	LGR Evans (LGRE)	A Griffiths (AGr)
A Cox (ACo)	R Evans (REv)	MJ Grounds (MJG)
J Cox (JCx)	CM Everett (CME)	P Guest (PGu)
M Craig (MCg)	M Ewing (ME)	D Haldane (DHne)
A Crawford (ACd)	J Fell (JFe)	D Hale (DHal)
R Cripps (RCs)	A Feltham (AFe)	D Hall (DHa)
A Crocker (ACr)	DM Ferguson (DMF)	V Halley-Frame (VH-F)
C Crocker (CCr)	J Fincham (JFm)	P Hambrook (PHk)
RSPB Croydon (RSPBC)	C Firman (CFi)	S Hamilton (SHn)
R Cruise (RCe)	AV Fisher (AVF)	J Hanlon (JHn)
AJ Culshaw (AJC)	P Fitzgibbon (PF)	B Harding (BHa)
D Curtis (DC)	J Fitzpatrick (JFi)	J Harlow (JHw)
LH Curtis (LHC)	J Fleck (JFk)	A Harris (AHar)
A Cutts (ACu)	R Flindall (RF)	DG Harris (DGH)
W Cutts (WCu)	J Flynn (JFn)	DM Harris (DMH)
AJA Dally (AJAD)	S Fogg (SF)	GJ Harris (GJH)
M Daniel (MDa)	E Ford (EF)	S Harris (SHs)
DG Darrell-Lambert (DGDL)	N Ford (NF)	SR Harris (SRH)
W Darter (WD)	M Frankling (MF)	D Harrison (DHar)
A Davies (ADa)	C Freddi (CFr)	J Harrison (JHar)
P Davies (PD)	D Funnell (DF)	L Harrison (LH)
RCVV Davies (RCWD)	A Fure (AFu)	NHS Harrow (HNHS)
C Dawne (CDa)	J Gale (JGa)	P Hart (PHT)
B Dawton (BD)	SW Gale (SWG)	N Harvey (NHa)
D De Silva (DSD)	P Gann (PGn)	U Harvey (UH)
A Dearing (ADe)	A Gardiner (AGa)	A Hatfield (AHat)
J Delve (JDe)	N Gardner (NG)	J Hatton (JHat)
MK Dennis (MKD)	J Gaskell (JGI)	WA Hatton (WAH)
K Denny (KDe)	P Gasson (PGa)	D Hawkins (DHaw)
M Dent (MDe)	SJ Gatley (SJG)	R Hawkins (RHa)
CS Dilke (CSD)	B Gee (BGe)	J Haworth (JHaw)
J Dix (JDi)	G Gentry (GG)	A Haynes (AHay)
L Dockett (LD)	A Gibbs (AGs)	G Hazlehurst (GH)
D Doe (DDo)	RG Gibbs (RGG)	CDR Heard (CDRH)
D Doody (DDy)	A Gibson (AGn)	P Heath (PHe)
D Dorken (DDn)	S Gibson (SG)	T Heath (The)
A Dorman (ADo)	M Gill (MGi)	CN Hedderwick (CNH)
A Driver (AD)	AP Goddard (APG)	D Hendy (DHe)
C Drury (CDr)	A Godden (AGo)	T Hick (THi)
AR Duckett (ARD)	M Goldie (MGo)	SA Hikmet (SAH)
K Dugmore (KDu)	P Goodall (PGo)	TJ Hill (TJH)
JP Early (JPE)	C Goodie (CG)	R Hiller (RHi)
East London Birders Forum (ELBF)	M Goodman (MGn)	RS Hoad (RSH)
C Edginton (CE)	D Goodwin (DGo)	B Holwell (BHo)
J Edwards (JE)	E Goodyear (EG)	MR Honey (MRH)
PJ Edwards (PJE)	GC Gore (GCG)	GL Hopkins (GLH)
D Eggett (DEg)	B Gotts (BGo)	P Hopkins (PHo)
G Ekins (GE)	J Gowland (JGo)	D Housley (DHo)
IS Ellis (ISE)	J Grandsen (JGr)	M Howell (MH)
D Ellison (DEl)	AJ Gray (AJG)	S Huggins (SHu)
B Elson (BE)	R Greaves (RGs)	B Hughes (BHU)
	R Green (RGn)	E Hughes (EH)

C Hull (CH)	P Mantle (PMa)	A Nurse (ANu)
N Hunt (NHt)	FJ Maroevic (FJM)	MJ Oakland (MJO)
D Hutley (DHu)	J Marshall (JMII)	A Oakley (AOy)
I Huttner (IH)	J Mason (JMa)	VH Oakley (VHO)
RJ Ingold (RJI)	A Massey (AMa)	P Oaks (PO)
A Innes (AI)	J Masson (JMas)	A Oakshett (AOt)
RE Innes (REI)	L Matthews (LM)	A Odams (AOd)
D Isaaks (DI)	N Matthews (NMt)	WE Oddie (WEO)
D James (DJa)	N May (NMy)	K O'Halloran (KO'H)
G James (GJ)	G McBeath (GMcB)	PJ Oliver (PJO)
M Jameson (MJa)	L McCallum (LMc)	WHJ Oliver (WHJO)
N Jarrett (NJ)	M McCarthy (MMcC)	M Orchard (MO)
R Jeffries (RJef)	A McKechnie (AMcK)	AJ Osborne (AJO)
R Jenkinson (RJn)	D McKenzie (DMcK)	KC Osborne (CKO)
D Jobbins (DJs)	KJ McManus (KJM)	LBC Osborne (LBCO)
D Johnson (DJn)	P McManus (PMc)	H Owen (HO)
J Johnson (JJ)	R Meek (RMk)	Owl Watch (Owl Watch)
G Johnson-Smith (GJ-S)	GDJ Messenbird (GDJM)	J Palmer (JPal)
M Johnston (MJn)	D Messenger (DMe)	S Pappa (SPa)
M Jones (MJs)	M Metcalf (MM)	J Park (JPK)
D Jordan (DJo)	A Middleton (AMi)	M Parr (MPR)
C Judd (CJ)	B Miles (BM)	J Parrish (JPh)
CR Jupp (CRJ)	D Miller (DMr)	M Parry (MPy)
R Kaye (RKa)	JG Miller (JGM)	AW Parsons (AWP)
I Kendall (IKen)	D Millington (DMn)	S Pash (SPH)
A Kenelly (AK)	D Mitchell (DMi)	S Pearce (SPe)
L Ketchen (LK)	J Mitchell (JMi)	A Pearson (APe)
I Kettle (IKet)	MT Mitchell (MTM)	G Peggs (GP)
RH Kettle (RHK)	D Monk (DMk)	S Peggs (SPeg)
EWL Keymer (EWLK)	DJ Montier (DJMr)	K Pepper (KP)
MW Kilby (MWK)	AV Moon (AVM)	SR Pepper (SRPr)
R Kilminster (RKi)	R Moore (RMo)	SR Perry (SRPy)
C Lamsdell (CL)	P Morgan (PMo)	C Pettigrew (CP)
MB Lancaster (MBL)	CE Morris (CEM)	S Petts (SPs)
M Lane (MLa)	DJ Morris (DJMs)	SR Pickering (SRPg)
RR Langley (RRL)	D Morrison (DMo)	J Picton (JPi)
JR Laundon (JRL)	J Moss (JMss)	CR Poole (CRP)
M Lawford (MLd)	S Moss (SM)	S Poole (SPo)
A Lawson (ALa)	SL Moss (SLM)	N Pope (NP)
M Lawson (MLn)	NJ Murphy (NJM)	SG Posen (SGP)
Lea Valley Park Rangers	J Murray (JMy)	R Prater (RPr)
(LVPR)	K Murray (KM)	EJ Pritchard (EJP)
A Leader (ALr)	SH Murray (SHM)	J Pritchard (JPd)
E Leahy (EL)	P Murrell (PMu)	A Prowse (APr)
A Lewis (ALs)	N Nash (NN)	J Prowse (JPr)
D Lindo (DLo)	A Nasir (ANa)	R Pryde (RPe)
C Lindsay (CLi)	P Naylor (PN)	KL Purdey (KLP)
D Ling (DLg)	R Neave (RN)	R Pyrah (RPy)
P Lloyd (PL)	P Newbound (PNd)	J Quail (JQ)
S Long (SL)	G Newell (GNw)	A Quinn (AQ)
B Luke (BL)	J Newton (JN)	N Ransdale (NR)
JM MacFarlane (JMM)	GC Nicholls (GCN)	D Rear (DRe)
H Mackie (HM)	L Nicholson (LN)	J Redwood (JRd)
G Maddison (GM)	G Noble (GNo)	B Reed (BR)
J Maiden (JMn)	K Noble (KN)	G Reed (GRe)

L Rees (LR)	M Sims (MSs)	L Veale (LV)
J Reid (JRe)	TR Smeeton (TRS)	H Venables (HVe)
A Reynolds (AR)	A Smith (ASm)	C Vero (CV)
GA Richards (GAR)	D Smith (DSm)	AG Verrall (AGV)
P Richardson (PRi)	JC Smith (JCS)	PJ Vines (PJV)
WG Richardson (WGR)	JT Smith (JTS)	B Waite (BW)
R Rickard (RR)	P Smith (PSm)	M Walford (MWal)
MS Riddler (MSR)	R Smith (RSm)	C Walker (CWr)
C Rimes (CRi)	T Smith (TS)	J Walker (JWr)
D Rimes (DRi)	C Smout (CSm)	A Waller (AWa)
J Rimes (JRI)	Essex Birdwatching Society	M Waller (MWr)
T Rimes (TRi)	(EBS)	CA Walsh (CAW)
T Robertson (TRo)	PA Spencer (PAS)	C Walton (CWn)
C Robinson (CRo)	B Sperring (BSg)	E Wang (EWa)
SH Robson (SHR)	GH Spicer (GHS)	C Wansbury (CWy)
P Roper (PRr)	MJ Spicer (MJS)	IP Ward (IPW)
G Rowland (GRo)	SJ Spooner (SJS)	M Ward (MWd)
P Royston (PRn)	R Standing (RSt)	SJ Ward (SJW)
Royal Society for the	E Stannard (ES)	M Warden (MWn)
Protection of Birds (RSPB)	I Stewart (IS)	S Warrington (SWa)
Ruislip & District NHS	PJ Strangeman (PJS)	D Watson (DWa)
(RDNHS)	P Street (PSt)	J Watson (JWn)
Runnymede Ringing Group	A Stroud (AS)	RJ Watts (RJWa)
(RRG)	S Stuart (SSt)	J Weir (JWe)
Rye Meads Ringing Group	R Suckling (RSu)	S Welch (SWe)
(RMRG)	Surrey Bird Club (SBC)	RD Weller (RDW)
RJ Safford (RJS)	DJ Sussex (DJS)	A Wells (AWe)
A Salmon (ASa)	S Sutcliffe (SSu)	T Wells (TWe)
N Sampford (NS)	N Tanner (NT)	Welsh Harp Conservation
D Sampson (DSa)	P Tarrant (PTa)	Group (WHCG)
RF Sanderson (RFS)	A Taylor (ATa)	M Wemys (MWs)
S Sanford (SSa)	DG Taylor (DGT)	P West (PWe)
E Sansom (ESa)	G Taylor (GT)	JJ Wheatley (JJW)
P Saunders (PSa)	B Temple (BT)	NR Wheatley (NRW)
M Schickner (MSch)	J Tester (JTe)	PJ Whitcomb (PJW)
J Schmidt (JSt)	BJ Thomas (BJT)	GJ White (GJW)
RE Scott (RES)	J Thompson (JTn)	PD White (PDW)
C Seabrook (CSe)	J Thorogood (JTh)	RJ White (RJWh)
ASM Self (ASMS)	J Tilbrook (JTi)	M Whittle (MWh)
P Sellers (PSe)	P Titterell (PTi)	JPP Wilczur (JPPW)
NP Senior (NPS)	R Todd (RT)	T Wilkins (TWs)
D Serjeant (DSe)	B Trevis (BTs)	D Willet (DWt)
B Sharp (BSp)	B Trott (BTt)	P Williamson (PWi)
P Sharp (PSh)	K Tubb (KT)	N Willits (NW)
R Sharp (RSp)	D Tucker (DT)	D Wills (DWs)
R Shayler (RSr)	A Turner (ATu)	AD Wilson (ADW)
EM Sheen (EMS)	B Turner (BTu)	T Wilson (TWn)
D Shenton (DSh)	C Turner (CT)	E Wiltshire (EWi)
M Shepherd (MSd)	VM Turner (VMT)	I Wiltshire (IWl)
W Sheppherd (WS)	J Tyler (JTy)	S Wood (SWd)
B Sherlock (BSk)	M Underhill (MU)	A Woodgate (AWo)
S Shippey (SSh)	G Unwin (GU)	I Woodward (IWo)
J Shipton (JSn)	BM Utton (BMU)	R Woodward (RW)
F Simpson (FS)	P Varney (PV)	BE Wright (BEW)
JA Simpson (JAS)	H Vaughan (HVa)	J Wurr (JWu)

Birds of the London Area, 2001

with Additions and Corrections for previous years

A REPORT ON BIRD LIFE WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF ST PAUL’S CATHEDRAL

The classification of species in the systematic list of this report is that adopted by K.H.Voous in his List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species. Sequence and nomenclature follow the *Birdwatch* Checklist of the Birds of Britain, 2002 and the relevant EURING number appears beside each species and sub-species heading.

The six counties within the London Area are signified in the report as follows: Essex, Herts = Hertfordshire, Middx = Middlesex, Bucks = Buckinghamshire, Kent, Surrey and In Lond = Inner London. North, South, East and West are abbreviated to N,S,E and W. Other abbreviations are:

CBC	=	Common Birds Census	PF	=	Playing Fields
CP	=	Country Park	R.	=	River
FB	=	Filter Beds	Res	=	Reservoir
GC	=	Golf Course	RG	=	Ringing Group
Gdn	=	Garden(s)	SF	=	Sewage Farm/Works
GP	=	Gravel Pit(s)	SP	=	Sand Pit
LBR	=	London Bird Report	NR	=	Nature Reserve
OPC	=	Outdoor Pursuit Centre	WCB	=	Watercress Beds
OS	=	Open Space	WR	=	Wildfowl Reserve

Observers’ initials in the report are shown against principal records. A full list of observers appears on pages 23 to 26. The abbreviation ‘mo’ used for some records indicates ‘many observers’. Sightings of more than one bird (where they are assumed to have arrived together) are treated as one record. All running totals of rare birds that are provided in the systematic list are for records from 1900.

0002

Red-throated Diver

Gavia stellata

Status: rare winter visitor.

Middx

Queen Mary Res, one on Jan 14th (DJMs,PN).

Bucks

Queen Mother Res, one from Nov 19th to Dec 16th (JAS).

The first records in the London Area since 1998.

0003

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

Status: rare winter visitor.

Bucks

Queen Mother Res, one first-winter from Nov 23rd to 25th (JAS).

Surrey

Island Barn Res, one from Nov 9th to 14th; on 15th the same bird circled nearby QE II Res and Walton Res before departing high to SE (DMH,SJS).

- 0004 Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***
 Status: rare winter visitor.
- Middx King George VI Res, one of the Staines Res birds from May 18th to 28th (PN).
 Staines Res, up to three from 2000 to Feb 26th at least, with one still on May
 28th (mo).
- Kent Littlebrook Lake, one from 28th Dec 2000 until Jan 7th (GB,ACr).

The long-staying birds at Staines and King George VI reservoirs went unreported for many weeks owing to the access restrictions imposed during the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak

- 0007 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***
 Status: breeding resident, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers in brackets indicate reported breeding pairs. Only maximum counts in each sector are given.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (1). Belhus New Lake (1). Bretons Lake (1). Crystal Waters (6). Dagenham Chase (3). Fairlop Lake (3). Fishers Green (1). Harrow Lodge Farm (2). Hornchurch CP (2). Ingrebourne Valley (3). Mayes Brook Park, Barking (2). Purfleet Chalk Pits (4). Stubbers OPC (1). Upminster (4). Valentines Park (1). Waltham Abbey (1). Walthamstow Res (2). Wanstead Park (2). Waterworks NR (3). Walthamstow Res, 37 on Nov 10th.
- Herts Amwell GP (1). Beech Farm GP (1). Cheshunt GP (1). Hilfield Park Res (4). Rye House (1). Rye Meads SF, 42 on Sept 15th.
- Middx Brent Res (2-3). Bushy Park (1). The Causeway NR (3). Kempton NR (2-3). Middlesex FB (1). Ponders End Lake (1). Stanwell Moor (1). Stockley Country Park (1). Swan Lake (3). Yeading Brook Meadows (1). Brent Res, 26 on Jan 20th.
- Bucks Chalfont Park (3). Denham Court (1). Hollybush Lane (1). Old Slade Lake (1). Tilehouse Lakes (one pair probably bred). Chalfont Park, 15 on Oct 1st.
- Kent Ruxley GP (1). Swanscombe Marsh (3). Thamesmead (1). Ruxley GP, 21 on Dec 21st.
- Surrey Beddington SF (1). London Wetland Centre (9). Long Ditton FB (1). Trevereux Pond (1). Waddon Pond (1). Walton Res (1). Wimbledon Common (1). London Wetland Centre, 32 on Aug 5th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Regent's Park (1). Regent's Park, three on Aug 10th.

- 0009 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***
 Status: common breeder and winter visitor.

No significant population change on previous year. Approximately 171 successful breeding pairs noted, at least six raising two broods. A few dozen further pairs were reported without subsequent breeding data, one bird in Kent sitting as late as Dec 15th. Several reports of failed attempts suggested environmental constraint – flooding, disturbance, and so on (see under Middx

for example). Kent and Surrey recorded only around 30 pairs between them, seven of these on or beside the Thames.

Breeding localities are shown with known number of pairs in brackets.



Essex	Barking Park (1). Becontree Angling Lake (2). Belhus Woods CP (1). Berwick Ponds (3). Bretons Lake (1). Connaught Water (1). Cornmill Meadows (2). Crystal Waters (2). Dagenham Chase (4). Hainault Forest (1). Harrow Lodge Farm (1). Harrow Lodge Park (1). Hollyfield Lake (5). Hooks Mews (4). Hornchurch CP (1). Kennington Park (1). Mayesbrook Park, Barking (1). Nazeing GP (1). Netherall GP (2+). Rainham GP (1). Raphaels Park (2). South Park, Ilford (1). Stubbers OPC (1). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (7). Wanstead Park (1). Weald Park (1).
Herts	Aldenham Res (4). Amwell GP (2). Bowyer's GP (1). Cheshunt GP (8+ pairs, plus 2 pairs on R. Lee). Croxley GP (2). Hampermill Lake (3+). Hilfield Park Res (5+). Lynsters Lake (2). Pynesfield GP (2). Rye Meads SF (1). Seventy Acres Lake (6). Stocker's Lake (4). Tolpits Lake (3+). Verulamium Lake (1).
Middx	Bedfont Lakes CP (2). Brent Res (13, many nests flooded out, some more than once). Broadwater Lake (3+). Bushy Park (1). Canons Lake (1). Dews Farm Lake (3). Harefield (1), at the Grand Union Canal Marina. Hairfield Place NR (6). Kempton NR (1). Kempton Park Race Course (1). Little Britain Lake (1). Moorhall Lake (4-5 pairs May 3rd but no nests seen later). Osterley Park (1). Ponders End Lakes (1). Princes Ski Club (1+). Ruislip Lido (3+). Savay Lake (4). Saxon Lake, Harmondsworth (1). Harmondsworth (1). Springwell Lake (1). Teddington, Broom Park Riverside Gardens (1). Wood Green Res (2). Yeading Brook Meadows (2). Yiewsley Lake (1).
Bucks	Black Park (1). East Iver Lake (2). Old Slade Lake (2). Orlitts North Lake (1). Thorney CP (1). Tilehouse North Lake (1). Wraysbury GP, 67 on Jan 14th.
Kent	Chipstead Lake (3). Danson Park (2+). Littlebrook Lake (1 on nest, Dec 15th). Lullingstone Lake (1). Ruxley GP (2). Sevenoaks WR (max breeding count 11 ads and seven juvs on July 30th). Thamesmead (2).
Surrey	Epsom Common (1). Godstone Bay Pond (1). London Wetland Centre (6). R. Mole (West Molesey) (1). R. Thames (several: Hampton Court. 1; Kingston Bridge to Teddington, 3; Mole Confluence, 2; Thames Ditton, 1). South Norwood Lake (1). Walton Res (1-2).
In Lond	Hyde Park (2). Regent's's Park (3).

The table shows monthly maxima at localities with at least 100 birds and where counts were returned in several months. Other high counts were: Cheshunt GP, 89 on Dec 1st and Hilfield Park Res, 105 on Aug 30th.

		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Middx	KGVI Res	27	31	-	-	127	138	103	82	55	41	37	16
	Queen Mary Res	134	246	-	-	-	-	81	-	84	74	98	167
	Wraysbury Res	13	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	186	114	36	-
Surrey	QE II Res	19	11	-	-	-	-	51	113	117	108	71	136

0010

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Essex King George V Res, one from Sept 2nd to 10th (PJV), one on Oct 20th (SC), one from Dec 14th to 31st (ACI *et al*). William Girling Res on Dec 13th (PJV).

Middx Shepperton GP, one on Feb 18th (CL).

Surrey Field Common GP, one on Feb 17th (RJI). Island Barn Res, one from Feb 14th until at least 27th when foot-and-mouth stopped access (DMH,SJS *et al*). QE II Res, juv on Sept 18th (DMH,SJS). Walton Res, a juvenile from Aug 20th to 21st (mo).

0011

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Herts Cheshunt GP, one from Mar 30th to Apr 16th (ADW *et al*). Hilfield Park Res, two in summer plumage Apr 28th (ABI).

Middx King George VI Res, two from Jan 19th to Feb 26th, one from Sept 2nd to Oct 27th, then up to three until Nov 2nd, with one to Nov 5th (mo). Queen Mary Res, two on Jan 19th and 20th (CL *et al*). Staines Res, one from Jan 5th to 7th, one from Sept 9th to Oct 20th, and one from Dec 16th to 30th (mo).

Surrey Walton Res, two on Jan 16th (DMH,NJM,SJS) and one on Dec 7th moving to Island Barn Res on Dec 8th (DMH,SJS).

0012

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Status: winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder.

Essex Fairlop Lake, one from Aug 27th to Sept 27th. King George V Res, four on Jan 18th and one on Sept 2nd. Site A, one pair reared two juvs. William Girling Res, monthly maxima in table below:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	11	-	-	-	-	-	5	16	18	17	14

Herts Hilfield Park Res, first two appeared on Mar 22nd then up to six during Apr, eight in May and a peak of 11 on June 2nd. Early breeding attempts failed but three broods totalling four juvs appeared late in season. Last sightings were on Sept 17th.

- Middx

Broadwater Lake, one from 2000 to Feb 24th, two from Oct 12th to 28th, three from Nov 4th to Dec 9th and one on Dec 24th. King George VI Res, up to three seen many dates from July 27th to Oct 27th, with three from Oct 15th to 23rd. Staines Res, singles on Jan 14th to 20th, May 26th, Aug 21st and Sept 11th.
- Surrey

Island Barn Res, singles on Sept 28th and Oct 27th and two on Dec 21st. London Wetland Centre, a pair on May 25th. Walton Res, singles on Aug 19th and 20th, Sept 29th to 30th, from Oct 10th to 31st with two from Oct 29th to 30th.

0020

Fulmar

Fulmaris glacialis

Status: rare visitor.

- Surrey

Beddington SF, one on Mar 1st and 2nd became moribund and was taken into care (P*AY et al*). London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 1st, circled site and followed R. Thames SE downstream (A*Sa*).

The London Wetland Centre and Beddington birds are the 31st and 32nd from the LNHS area, assuming they were different birds.

0071

Gannet

Morus bassanus

Status: scarce visitor.

- Bucks

Colnbrook, an adult on May 13th circled before flying SW (C*DRH*).
- Surrey

Beddington SF, a juv on Sept 19th circled for 15 minutes then flew SW (P*AY et al*).

The 61st and 62nd records for the LNHS area.

0072

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Status: breeding resident, common elsewhere especially in winter.

Several reports were received of the *sinensis* race, observers should be careful when trying to separate this from the *carbo* race, the shape of the ear and lower edges of the face patch are the separating features (*Birdwatch* 115 p 31). Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites with one or more returns of over 200 are tabulated. Notable counts from other localities are shown under the sector summaries, with slightly more detailed treatment for Inner London.

		J	F	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Essex	Walthamstow Res	122	244	586	551	547	412	247	132	433	142	312
Middx	KGVI Res	23	51	-	129	271	349	-	5	75	113	30
	Queen Mary Res	400	50	-	-	-	-	264	30	17	38	12
	Staines Res	2	-	-	-	-	-	28	200	75	25	105
Surrey	Island Barn Res	21	26	-	-	-	4	5	9	10	214	46
	QE II Res	540	220	-	-	-	311	438	454	360	465	399

- Essex Breeding at Holyfield Lake (15 nesting pairs) and Walthamstow Res (280 pairs). Beckton SF, 173 on Jan 7th. King George V Res, 378 on Nov 1st,
 Herts Amwell GP (two pairs attempted breeding but failed, following prospecting in 2000). Hilfield Park Res, 71 on Sept 1st. Rye Meads SF, 55 on Sept 15th.
 Middx Broadwater Lake, 19+ nests.
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, 76 on Dec 22nd.
 Surrey R. Thames between Barnes and Putney bridges, 55 on Oct 7th.
 In Lond Noted at 13 sites, plus several stretches of R Thames (especially by Millbank Tower, max 30 on Feb 28th; Vauxhall Bridge, max 25 birds on Mar 27th). Hyde Park, 30 on Dec 11th.

0080 Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
 Status: irregular visitor, mainly in winter.

- Essex Hooks Marsh, one immature on Apr 16th (SC).
 Herts Ware, one on R. Lea on June 1st had been ringed as nestling on Isle of May June 2000 (BR).
 Bucks Langley Park, one on Jan 14th (DMF).
 Surrey Island Barn Res, one imm on Nov 30th and Dec 1st (SJS). R. Thames at Barnes, one imm on Aug 2nd (DMk).

0095 Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
 Status: scarce winter visitor, typically returning to favoured sites.

- Herts Amwell GP, up to three reported in Jan, dropping to one in March, last noted Apr 6th; one on Nov 2nd. Cheshunt GP, one from Jan to Apr 15th, one from Oct 4th to end of year, with two reported on Oct 28th and Nov 26th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Jan 9th and 15th. Rye Meads SF, singles on Jan 27th, Apr 7th, 10th and Nov 27th, Dec 8th and 15th.
 Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, singles on Jan 14th, 19th, and Mar 27th.
 Bucks Horton GP, one on Dec 24th.

0111 Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
 Status: vagrant.

- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 18th flew in at 12.00 and left 15.30 (HBw *et al*).
 The third record from the LNHS area following one at Wanstead Park in May 1998 and the flock of eight in May 1992 in the Herts sector. Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

0119 Little Egret***Egretta garzetta***

Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

The many reports of overflying and of transient visits to one locality or another by this conspicuous species suggest that at least some individuals change localities frequently, even from hour to hour, hence summarising totals may be misleading. For example, a pair flushed from London Wetland Centre on Nov 27th was possibly that seen later flying over Gunnersbury NR 3 km to the NW. Some 63 bird-records were counted for the year, but some may be duplicates while others regarded as singles might refer to more than one bird. Most records were from July (9), August (13), September (7) and October (5), suggesting post-breeding influx to the LNHS area, with a broad, lesser peak, December (3), January (4) and February (6), apparently of wintering birds. The months of March to May, and November, had just one or two records each from the whole of the LNHS area.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Feb 12th and 14th. Rainham Marsh, one May 13th then up to six during June, seven on July 1st, latest two on Sept 14th. Walthamstow Res, 1-3 from Sept 9th to 23rd. Wanstead Park, 1-2 from Jan 28th to Feb 3rd. Wm Girling Res, one from Aug 17th to Sept 30th, two on Oct 1st, three from Oct 2nd to 6th, after which just one on Oct 13th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on several dates between Aug 11th to Sept 9th, then one on Dec 15th. Chess Valley, two on Feb 11th. Rickmansworth, two on Feb 11th and two on Mar 27th. Rye Meads SF, up to three from Aug 5th until early Sept, with four on Aug 26th 'flew SW to roost each day'. Scotsbridge Mill, one Feb 3rd, three on 4th and 7th, and two on 11th. Stocker's Lake, one on July 28th. Ware, one on Oct 27th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, three intermittently between Jan 6th and Feb 17th, one Aug 6th, two on Dec 9th, and five seen flying in from N at 16:05 hrs on Dec 24th. Gunnersbury Triangle NR, two flew over SE on Nov 27th. Kempton NR, 1-5 from July 28th to Aug 29th. King George VI Res, one on Sept 15th and 27th. Moorhall Lake, singles on Aug 4th and 11th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 15th. Stanwell Moor, singles on July 21st and 22nd, Aug 3rd and from Sept 15th to Oct 9th. Teddington, one on July 6th. Uxbridge, one on Feb 14th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on July 24th, Aug 1st, 19th and 21st.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on July 7th and 14th; two on Dec 27th and one on 28th and 29th. Ruxley GP, one on Aug 12th. Sevenoaks WR, one on seven dates between Jan 3rd and Feb 9th, four on Aug 1st and one from 12th to 15th, one on Sept 7th and 9th. R. Thames, Woolwich, three on June 15th flying E.
- Surrey Barnes, one over NW at 14:30 on May 3rd. Beddington SF, singles on Aug 5th, 12th and 19th. Godstone Bay Pond, one flew W on Jan 7th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 17th; July 4th and 10th; Sept 12th and 15th; Oct 5th, and two on Nov 27th. QE II Res, one on July 25th. Richmond Park, one on June 21st.

0122 Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea***

Status: breeding on many suitable waters.

The second-highest annual number of 471 pairs/nests was reported, only that of 1998 being higher. Several reports indicated that not all nests occupied early in the year eventually had young. Walthamstow has the second largest heronry in the country, but counts showed a slight decrease from the 1998 peak; Kempton Park NR also has a nationally important colony. The notable Battersea Park heronry, established when two pairs nested in 1990, apparently survived major disturbance during 2000.

The table shows breeding pairs recorded at the two major sites and the LNHS Area totals. Note the wide fluctuation year to year. Data listed in *LBR 1998* gave a (record) grand total as shown, not 406 as then indicated. The recent *Breeding Bird Atlas of the London Area* (Hewlett, 2002, p, 30) interpreted these 1998 data similarly, as 'over 500' pairs.

	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01
Kempton Park	38	38	35	50	35	60	72	65	60	62
Walthamstow Res	121	138	116	111	93	102	126	108	110	98
LNHS Area Total	319	309	392	415	321	457	512	391	455	471

Numbers of pairs or nests recorded at each site are shown in brackets. The few counts of 25 or over are also given.

- Essex Harrow Lodge Farm (1). Holyfield Hall Farm (9). Holyfield Lake (3). Hornchurch CP (1). Mayesbrooke Park. Barking (4). Nazeing GP (1). Waltham Abbey Wood (18). Walthamstow Res (98). Rainham Marsh, 25 on 30th Dec.
- Herts Amwell GP (2+). Brocket Park, Welwyn (30). Verulamium Lake (17).
- Middx Broadwater Lake (26). Frays Meadow (1). Kempton Park (62). Little Britain Lake (7+). Osterley Park (1). Syon Park (1). Yiewsley Lake (11). Brent Res, 41 on 22nd Dec.
- Kent Crossness (8). Kelsey Park (18). Swanscombe Marsh (9).
- Surrey Bookham Common (23). Brentford Ait (19). Corporation Island, R. Thames (11). Horton CP (c5). Isleworth Ait (17). London Wetland Centre PF (1). Lonsdale Road Res (4). Morden Hall Park (8 on July 1st, then a ninth, late brood fledging Sept). Pen Ponds, Richmond (15). London Wetland Centre, 29 on 15th Sept.
- In Lond Battersea Park (some trees previously used were felled, but birds occupied a new, less disturbed site where there were 30 nests, close to the peak of 32 in 1997 and 1998). Regent's Park (23).

0134 White Stork***Ciconia ciconia***

Status: vagrant.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, one on May 2nd which appeared to land (PSt).

The 15th record from the LNHS area, 47% of them have been in the first half of May.

0144 Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Status: rare, not recorded annually,

Middx Stanwell Moor, four juveniles on the evening of Sept 11th (CL,PN,KLP).

The 26th record for the LNHS Area, and the first for two years. The above birds may have originated from a group of six that flew south from Breydon Water, Norfolk on Sept 8th. Five then appeared at Theale GP, Berks on Sept 10th and the above four in London the next day

0152 Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Status: conspicuous breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding pairs recorded from each county are tabulated along with 2000 numbers. The overall total was nearly identical, but sector totals varied. Most occupied sites had just one pair, only larger localities holding more. Note the sharp increase in Inner London..

All breeding records of this species are requested.

Breeding pairs	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
2001	34	26	26	7	9	17	7	126
2000	41	18	25	12	4	26	2	128

The highest counts from major localities are given below:

Essex	Dagenham Chase, 34 on Feb 11th. Eagle Pond, 62 on Oct 7th. Harrow Lodge Farm, 142 on Dec 16th. Holyfield Lake, 56 on Aug 5th. Waltham Abbey, 44 on Feb 18th. Walthamstow Res, 92 on Aug 3rd,
Herts	Amwell GP, 62 on Aug 24th. Bowyer's GP, 41 on Oct 10th. Bury Lake, 81 on May 3rd. Cheshunt GP, 105 on Oct 1st. Troy Mill GP, 122 on Jan 1st. Ware, 108 on Mar 1st .
Middx	Brent Res, 48 on Oct 7th. Broadwater Lake, 69 on Aug 2nd. Bushy Park, 39 on Sept 28th. Hampton Court Park, 72 on Nov 20th. Kempton Park, 51 on Oct 16th. King George VI Res, 57 on Aug 7th. Ruislip Lido, 42 on Feb 11th. Staines Moor, 53 on May 26th.
Bucks	Wraysbury GP, 41 on Oct 6th.
Kent	Thames Barrier, 17 on Sept 2nd.
Surrey	London Wetland Centre, 38 on May 19th. QE II Res, 71 on Aug 25th. Riverside Open Space, 73 on Mar 14th. Walton Res, 32 on Sept 14th.
In Lond	Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 104 on Dec 11th.

0153 Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Status: scarce winter visitor.

No fewer than 38 individuals were reported, the highest number since 1997. None of this year's birds were recorded on a second day.

The table shows LNHS Area records of this species and the next species in the last decade. Note that some totals may include overwintering birds recorded in both years, but many records are of birds or parties noted for just brief periods.

Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01
Bewick's Swan	69	72	10	11	22	144	1	3	1	38
Whooper Swan	11	7	0	4	0	10+	1	1	0	0

Essex Netherhall GP, 27 (21 adults and six imms) on Dec 14th (SC,NMy,TS).
Herts Amwell GP, 7 adults on Dec 15th (BR).
Surrey Island Barn Res, one flew over at 11.34 on Nov 27th (DMH). QE II Res, three adults on Nov 16th, seen at 07:20 but had left by 08.30 (DMH).

0157 **Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*
Status: winter vagrant.

The previous record was in 1997, and only the third since 1985.

Essex King George V Res, six west at 09.30 on Jan 20th (PJV).

These birds could not be assigned to race.

0158 **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*
Status: scarce winter visitor.

Middx Staines Moor, three on Feb 16th (RKa).

0159 **White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*
Status: scarce winter visitor.

Middx King George VI Res/Staines Moor/Stanwell Moor area, three (two adults and one 1st winter) from Jan 13th to Mar 8th (mo).

0161 **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*
Status: common and increasing feral breeding resident, controlled.

Breeding localities are given with the number of pairs in brackets, and also maximum non-breeding counts that exceed 50 birds.

Essex Belhus Woods, 75 on Jan 14th. Fishers Green (4). Hooks Marsh (1). Mayesbrook Park (3). Rainham Marsh (probably 1), 150 on Nov 15th. Stubbers OPC (1). Waltham Abbey Marsh (2). Waltham Marsh, 58 on Sept 28th. Walthamstow Res (12), 85 on July 7th.

- Herts Amwell GP (1). Cheshunt GP (3). Lynster's Lake (6).
 Middx Broadwater Lake (2), 98 on Oct 13th.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, four on Jan 14th.
 Kent Hall Place Gdns (1). Ruxley GP (1). Sevenoaks WR, 390 on Sept 12th.
 Surrey Claremont Lake (32 ads and 18 juvs on June 6th), 51 on Dec 6th.
 Holmethorpe SP, 72 on Nov 24th. London Wetland Centre (1). Painshill Park,
 Cobham (1). Putney Heath (1). Trevereux/Swaynesland, 55 in Dec.
 Wimbledon Common (1).
 In Lond Lambeth Bridge (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 136 on Jan 25th. Regent's
 Park, 34 on Aug 15th. St James's Park, 118 on Sept 5th. Victoria Park, 45 on
 Oct 1st.

0166 Canada Goose***Branta canadensis***

Status: common feral breeding resident.

Numbers of hatched broods at localities with five or more are given in brackets. A few smaller populations are noted where significant. Successful fledging of every brood of goslings should not be inferred. Control is widespread, and clutch failure is probably common on managed waters: see the Surrey entries, for example. Counts of flocks of c200 or more are also given, with a few smaller counts if noteworthy. Unless otherwise stated, these counts are the annual maxima reported from each locality.

- Essex Beckton Park (12). Crystal Water (6). Hook's Marsh (7). Parsloes Park (5).
 Rainham Marsh (5). Royal Docks (8). South Park, Ilford (8). Fishers Green,
 320 on Dec 22nd. Holyfield Hall, 238 on Oct 28th. Holyfield Marsh GP, 208 on
 Oct 14th. Valentine's Park, 222 on Oct 7th. Walthamstow Res, 805 on Jan
 20th and 781 on June 24th. Wanstead Flats. 287 on Feb 11th.
 Herts Amwell GP (20), 244 on June 19th. Bowyer's GP, 224 on Oct 10th. Bury Lake
 (53 ads with 20 juvs on May 24th had bred at Stocker's Lake). Cheshunt GP,
 339 on Oct 1st. Hilfield Park Res, 308 on Sept 5th. Oyler's Farm, 649 on Oct
 7th. Stocker's Farm, 205 on Aug 1st. Stocker's Lake (25 prs with 11 nests).
 Tolpits Lake (9 prs, 4 nests). Tyttenhanger GP, 350 on Dec 9th.
 Middx Brent Res, 201 on June 23rd. Broadwater Lake (10+). Halliford Mere Lakes
 (probably 21 pairs). Hampton Court Park, 240 on Dec 29th. Kempton NR (13).
 Osterley Park, 237 on Aug 15th. Savay Lake (11+).
 Bucks Highest count Woodlands Park GP, 103 on Nov 28th.
 Kent Orpington, Priory Gardens, c300 on Sept 12th. Ruxley GP (4-5).
 Surrey London Wetland Centre (35 pairs but only 1 brood). Morden Hall Park (8). R.
 Thames at Kingston, 260 on July 7th. Wimbledon Common (6).
 In Lond Grand Union Canal (2). Little Venice (2), 61 on July 1st. Hyde Park/
 Kensington Gardens, 89 on Jan 25th. Regent's Canal at Kings Cross (2).
 Regent's Park, 168 on Aug 15th. St James's Park, 97 on Sept 5th. Surrey
 Docks (1+).

- 0168 Brent Goose** ***Branta bernicla***
 Status: scarce winter visitor.
- Just 12 birds were reported, all singles, compared with some 217 in 2000. There may have been as few as six birds as the Bucks records could all be the same as the long staying Middx bird.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 28th with seven Greylag Geese (CBk).
 Middx Brent Res, one on Oct 20th from 10.05 to 14.30 hrs (AGV). King George VI Res, the Staines Moor bird present on Jan 15th (KLP). Staines Moor, one from Jan 13th to Mar 30th (mo) and one from June 15th to 23rd possibly an escape (KLP,PN). Stanwell Moor, the Staines Moor bird present from Jan 13th to 15th (CL,AVM,KLP) and Feb 24th (RKa).
- Bucks Horton Fields, one on Jan 6th (PN,AVM). Horton GP, one on Mar 25th (JAS). Queen Mother Res, one on Jan 14th and Feb 9th (JAS). Wraysbury GP, one on Jan 22nd (CDRH).
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, one on Feb 11th (MLn).
 Surrey Clackett Lane M25 Services, one flew W on Jan 8th (SJS). QE II and Walton Res, one on Dec 8th seen at both locations (DMH, SJS).
-
- 0170 Egyptian Goose** ***Alopochen aegyptiacus***
 Status: uncommon feral breeding resident.
- Essex Beckton, four (one juv) on Aug 12th. South Park, Ilford, one pair attempted to breed.
- Herts Amwell GP, one pair all year and attempted to bred, max. 18 on Jan 18th.
 Middx Broadwater Lake, two on Feb 24th. Bushy Park, present all year, highest count 14 on Apr 19th; three pairs raised 15 young. Fray's Wildfowl Lake, two on Nov 4th. Halliford Mere Lakes, two on Feb 11th. Hampton Court Park, present all year, with highest count 37 on Dec 12th; one pair with nine juveniles seen on July 29th. Hillingdon Canal, two on Apr 10th. South Harefield, four on Feb 17th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 25th. Stanwell Moor, one on Jan 14th. Teddington, one pair and six juvs on Aug 22nd.
- Bucks Denham Court, four on Feb 3rd and Mar 2nd, two on May 31st. Horton GP, one on May 27th. Langley Park, two adults and six young on June 17th. Queen Mother Res, one on Apr 25th, three on Nov 3rd. Wraysbury GP, one on Jan 17th and July 19th.
- Surrey Apps Court Farm GP, one on Nov 25th. Beddington SF, eight on Feb 6th and one on Mar 31st. Cobham (Painshill Park), one on May 5th May. Godstone, one pair all year, three on Sept 13th. Hersham GP, two flew N on May 26th. Holmethorpe GP, two on Nov 30th. Island Barn Res, nine flew E on Nov 14th; also singles on Dec 23rd and 26th. Kew Gardens, a pair with eight young in March. London Wetland Centre, eight on July 30th. Molesey Heath, one over on May 7th. Oxted area, 12 on, Dec 1st, nine on Dec 16th, six on Dec 28th. QE II Res, one from July 5th to Aug 7th and two on Sept 5th. Reigate, Priory Pond, singles on six dates. R. Thames at Kingston, two on Aug 9th and 15th Aug, eight flew in to roost on Stevens Eyot on Aug 22nd. R. Thames at Sunbury, one on Feb 25th. R. Thames at Walton-on-Thames, one Mar 25th. Thorpe Water Park, up to four throughout year. Walton Res, one flew over on July 1st and two on Oct 8th.

0173 Shelduck***Tadorna tadorna***

Status: scare breeder, winter and passage migrant.

Numbers of breeding pairs reported are given in brackets, the total for the year was c50, the same as for the previous year. Major counts are also shown. All breeding records should be submitted.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (17 broods with 106 young), 233 on Jan 7th and 207 on Dec 16th. Beckton SF (c6 broods, 20 young). Cornmill Meadows (1). Creekmouth, Barking (6 females with 20 young), 114 on Dec 16th. Hornchurch CP (3). Rainham Marsh (1), 104 on June 9th. Thames Barrier, 130 on Feb 12th. Walthamstow Res (1).
- Herts Otterspool (1). Rye Meads SF, eight on June 15th. Stanstead Abbots GP (1).
- Middx King George VI Res, 21 on Dec 16th. Queen Mary Res (1). Staines Moor, 30 on Apr 6th. Staines Res, 22 on Mar 18th. Stanwell Moor, 19 on June 3rd.
- Bucks No report of breeding and no counts exceeding three.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (2-3 ads and 9 young). Swanscombe Marsh (1). Thames Barrier area (2 adults and 1 juv on June 10th), 158 on Jan 2nd and 121 on Dec 9th.
- Surrey Hersham GP, nine on Mar 9th. London Wetland Centre (one pair present but no breeding). QE II Res, eight on Feb 3rd.

0178 Mandarin***Aix galericulata***

Status: feral breeding resident, locally common.

Widespread throughout the area except Inner London, Bucks and Kent, though numerous and slowly increasing at Bough Beech Reservoir, near Sevenoaks, just outside the LNHS Kent sector. Confirmed breeding records are given in brackets, followed by counts over ten birds, or the highest counts in those sectors not recording over ten birds. Four sites had counts of 40 or more birds, the maximum being an impressive flock of 117. About 30 pairs definitely rearing young were reported, compared with exactly 50 listed in LBR 2000.

- Essex Connaught Water, 60 on Jan 17th, 70 on July 24th. Epping Forest (15).
- Herts Cooper's Green GP (2), 11 on Aug 8th. Panshanger Park, 11 on Nov 1st.
- Middx Bushy Park (2-3 pairs), 27 on Aug 13th. Grovelands Park (1), 117 on Dec 31st. Hampstead Heath (one pair looked set to breed on Apr 30th), 11 on Oct 1st. Hampton Court Park (1). Osterley Park, 14 on Sept 5th. Stanmore Common (1). Trent Park (1), 10 on Sept 2nd.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, five on Dec 31st.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Apr 3rd. Hall Place Gardens, one on Apr 23rd, Oct 5th and Nov 5th. Sevenoaks WR (1).
- Surrey Claremont Lake, 38 on Sept 28th. Epsom Common (3), 70 on Oct 12th. Gatton Park Lake, 20 on Oct 14th. Richmond Park (1), 10 on Feb 11th. Walton-on-Thames (Burwood Park), 48 on Dec 2nd. Wimbledon Common (1).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Regent's Park (1).

0179

Wigeon

Anas penelope

Status: common winter visitor, with occasional summer records.

Adding together the highest January counts suggests that about 2,500 birds were in the area in January, compared with 2,250 in 2000 and 2,800 in 1999; and about 3000 in December, compared with 1,635 and 2,000 respectively.

The two flocks of 560 (Surrey, January) and 577 (Middx, October), are the fourth and third largest flocks of the species recorded from the LNHS area since 1990.

The table shows monthly maxima at localities returning counts of 100+ and whence three or more months' data were submitted. All other counts of 50+ are given in the text or sector maximum if lower.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Cornmill Meadows	158	200		9			8		128	70
	Netherall GP	100							41		73
	Rainham Marsh	60		40			22		150	200	400
	Stubbers OPC		29	22				35	68	51	104
Herts	Amwell GP	29	106	2	2		1	21	33	78	124
	Cheshunt GP							35	71	50	224
Middx	Broadwater Lake		282					30	150	50	
	Kempton NR	450	410	188			3	3	25	300	80
	King George VI Res	4	12			3	7	103	577	98	6
	Ponders End Lake	100	46	34							64
	Staines Res	493	508				5	1	97	359	411
Bucks	Woodlands Park GP	77	74						74	104	110
Surrey	Thorpe Water Park	182	217	14				2		126	159
	Walton Res	560	532			1		28	20	203	458

- Essex
- South Ockenden, 62 on Feb 11th, 149 on Dec 31st.
- Herts
- Bowyer's GP, 70 on Dec 12th. Troy Mill Lake, 120 on Jan 1st.
- Middx
- Queen Mary Res, 80 on Dec 22nd. Shepperton GP, c80 on Feb 18th. Stain Hill Res, 44 on Feb 11th and 75 on Dec 16th.
- Bucks
- Queen Mother Res, 150 on Oct 17th E at 14.00 hrs. Wraysbury GP, 198 on Nov 10th.
- Kent
- Swanscombe Marsh, 25 on Sept 20th..
- Surrey
- Hersham GP, 76 on Feb 9th. London Wetland Centre, 87 on Dec 23rd.

0182

Gadwall

Anas strepera

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

The records indicate that in year 2001 the January maximum for the LNHS area was slightly over 2,000 birds, and in December about 1,700, compared with 2,500 and 1,300 respectively the year before. The table shows counts from sites with flocks of 100 or more, followed by all breeding records (with numbers in brackets) and other notable counts.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Herts	Amwell GP	152	72	30	27	23	63	34	16	34	34	168	206
	Bowyer's GP										38	51	120
	Cheshunt GP					5	45	68			4		215
	Rye Meads SF	228	211	142	63	20		15	70	129	91	30	116
Middx	Brent Res	60	41			2	30		41	223	295	170	71
	Kempton NR	70	14	3	1	7	10	6	48	107	67	50	11
	Queen Mary Res	199	31								26	22	67
	Stain Hill Res	48	46						24	55	42	50	114
	Staines Res	100	54	20		18				72	54	78	37
Surrey	London Wetland Centre	87	144	59	17	12	10	14	55	118	182	200	240
	Thorpe Water Park	157	118	3	2					5	23	48	62
	Walton Res	71	38	7	4			190	99	85	38	56	39
Essex	Cornmill Meadows (2). Dagenham Chase, 50 on Dec 21st. Hall Marsh (9). Hornchurch CP (3). Rainham GP (4). Rainham Marsh, 93 on Dec 8th. Walthamstow Res, 72 on Feb 11th. Wanstead Park, 52 on Nov 11th.												
Herts	Amwell GP (9). Hilfield Park Res (1). Otterspool (1). Rye Meads SF (2). Stocker's Lake, 128 on Jan 1st. Troy Mill GP, 180 on Jan 1st.												
Middx	Brent Res (6+). Broadwater Lake, 80 on Oct 27th. King George VI Res, 59 on Feb 11th. Stoke Newington Res (1). Yiewsley Lake, c50 on Oct 17th.												
Bucks	Chalfont Park (1). Tilehouse Lakes (1), 30 on Jan 18th.												
Kent	Ruxley GP, 55 on Nov 30th. Sevenoaks WR, 99 on Feb 19th. Swanscombe Marsh, 49 on Jan 1st.												
Surrey	Island Barn Res, 52 on Jan 20th and 81 on Nov 13th. London Wetland Centre (1). QE II Res, 84 on Feb 27th and 97 on Dec 31st.												
In Lond	Buckingham Palace (2). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1).												

0184

Teal

Anas crecca

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

The only breeding record received was of a brood at Rainham Marsh, though several birds apparently paired were seen on various summer dates elsewhere. The table shows localities reporting 100 or more. Other notable flocks are listed under counties.

		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Essex	Barking Bay/Marsh	749	356	172	-	-	-	-	-	22	166	524	1028
	Barking Creekmouth	41	147	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	330	303	780
	Cornmill Meadows	98	-	-	4	-	-	1	100	159	37	171	-
	Hornchurch CP	54	68	39	20	-	21	19	53	108	84	24	52
	KGV Res	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	50
	Rainham Marsh	50	22	50	63	4	20	17	76	432	1000	650	600
	Walthamstow Res	146	62	10	1	-	-	-	-	28	68	126	151
Herts	Rye Meads SF	182	204	151	58	3	3	3	9	100	139	101	250
Middx	Brent Res	47	29	30	-	-	14	-	-	77	96	121	94
	KGVI Res	486	549	-	-	-	-	1	-	56	176	206	840
	Staines Res	132	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	8	12	16
Kent	Dartford Marsh	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	100
	Sevenoaks WR	115	-	7	15	2	4	5	12	89	87	116	145
Surrey	Beddington SF	600	210	259	40	-	1	5	68	100	485	568	600
	Hersham GP	130	30	129	26	-	-	-	-	-	90	160	132
	Island Barn Res	161	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	7	112
	London Wetland Centre	260	330	150	39	-	5	8	68	141	153	99	330
	Walton Res	138	295	27	19	1	-	22	25	25	57	109	69

Essex	Beckton, 780 on Dec 16th.
Herts	Cooper's Green CP, 156 on Dec 16th.
Bucks	Old Slade Lake, 48 on Jan 17th, and 45 on Nov 18th.
Kent	Charlton, on R. Thames, c100 on Feb 13th. Thames Barrier area, 264 on Jan 7 th , 104 on Sept 21st, and 449 on Dec 9th.
Surrey	On R. Thames between Barnes and Putney bridges, 113 on Jan 14th and 208 on Dec 16th.

0186 Mallard***Anas platyrhynchos***

Status: common breeder and winter visitor.

Numbers of breeding sites are shown, lower than the previous year perhaps due to foot-and-mouth disease limiting access. Maximum counts over 100 from each winter period are listed, along with a few notable but lower counts. Inner London counts of over 40 are given.

Essex	Reported from 31 sites, breeding noted at 17. Barking Bay/Marsh, 224 on 7th Oct. Belhus Woods CP, 154 on Sept 19th. Connaught Water, 107 on Feb 11th. Dagenham Chase, 152 on Sept 18th. Harrow Lodge Park, 243 on Oct 7th. Hornchurch CP, 102 on Oct 3rd. Valentine's Park, 182 on Oct 7th. Walthamstow Res, 209 on Jan 20th. Weald Park, 112 on Jan 18th.
Herts	Reported from 14 sites, breeding noted at 11. Amwell GP, 456 on Dec 8th. Cheshunt GP, 363 on Dec 1st. Panshanger Park, 129 on Jan 14th. Rye Meads SF, 103 on Sept 15th. Tyttenhanger GP, 200 on Oct 1st.
Middx	Reported from 32 sites, breeding noted at 17. Brent Res, 118 on Sept 16th. Bushy Park, 150 on Oct 27th. Hampstead Heath, 200 on Feb 11th. King George VI Res, 146 on Dec 16th.
Bucks	Reported from seven sites, with no record of breeding. Chalfont Park, 66 on Jan 18th. Wraysbury GP, 90 on Jan 14th.
Kent	Reported from 17 sites, breeding reported at just two. Foots Cray Meadows, 70 on Jan 21st. Sevenoaks WR, 73 on July 25th.
Surrey	Reported from 30 sites, breeding noted at 13. London Wetland Centre, 341 on Feb 4th. Lonsdale Road Res, 144 on Dec 16th. R. Thames between Barnes and Putney bridges, 530 on Sept 10th. Reigate Priory, 92 on Sept 16th. Waddon Ponds, 90 on Jan 13th. Walton Res, 110 on Nov 11th.
In Lond	Reported from 18 sites, breeding noted at eight. Battersea Park, 46 on Mar 12th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 55 on Jan 25th. Regent's Park, 226 on Nov 1st. R. Thames at Battersea, 106 on Jan 14th. St James's Park, 21 broods, 111 on Feb 21st. Surrey Docks, 102 on Jan 15th. Victoria Park, 48 on June 11th.

0189 Pintail***Anas acuta***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, with occasional summer records.

Some of the records may refer to birds of feral origin, but the species was not reported between April and August. Recorded from 18 sites. All records are listed, except in Surrey where presumed records of feral birds have been omitted.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one from Feb 20th to Mar 7th. King George V Res, two from Jan 18th to Feb 18th and three on Nov 9th. Rainham Marsh, two from Sept 1st to 16th, then 2-8 present until Dec 20th, and 13 on Dec 30th. Stubber's GP, one on Feb 2nd. Walthamstow Res, three on Nov 11th. Wm Girling Res, one on Sept 27th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, singles on Jan 13th, Sept 11th, and Dec 10th.
- Middx Brent Res, 6-7 from Dec 9th to 18th. Bushy Park, one on Jan 6th and six on Jan 24th. KGVI Res, two on Jan 7th, ten on Jan 27th, two on Feb 13th and 24th; one on Nov 12th to 17th, two on Nov 23rd to 24th, and 3-6 from Dec 16th to 27th. Staines Moor, two on Mar 30th and 31st. Staines Res, ten on Jan 25th, four on Feb 13th and three on Feb 18th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, three on Feb 11th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one from Sept 30th to year end. Swanscombe Marsh, three on Jan 13th, one on Feb 11th, two on Mar 4th and one on Mar 10th.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, two on Jan 24th. QE II Res, three on Dec 9th and two on Dec 23rd. Walton Res, one on Jan 14th, and two on Jan 20th.

0191 Garganey *Anas querquedula*
 Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter, occasional breeder.

Two pairs reported breeding, both at Rainham Marsh.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, a pair on June 16th, one on Sept 6th and Oct 7th. Berwick Ponds, two on Apr 9th. Connaught Water, one on Oct 7th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Oct 7th, 11th and 13th. Dagenham Chase, two from Apr 1st to 3rd, one from July 1st to 7th. Fishers Green, one from Aug 16th to 19th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Aug 18th. Hornchurch CP, two from Apr 4th to 9th, and one stayed from Apr 13th to May 10th. Rainham GP, one on July 1st. Rainham Marsh, two pairs bred, one with a brood of eight.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on May 20th, July 20th to 23rd, Aug 25th, and Sept 10th and 22nd. Cheshunt GP, one on Apr 18th. Hilfield Park Res, one on July 23rd. Rye Meads SF, one from July 1st to 7th.
- Middx Brent Res, a pair on May 14th. Kempton NR, singles on Aug 3rd and 13th, two on Sept 1st, one from Sept 4th to 18th and one on Oct 1st. King George VI Res, 1-3 from Aug 12th to 29th, and one from Sept 10th to 27th. Staines Moor, 1-2 on several dates from Apr 25th to May 25th, then 1-2 from Aug 3rd to 29th. Stanwell Moor, 1-3 seen on numerous dates from Apr 22nd to Sept 24th, with five on Aug 23rd and three on Sept 15th to 16th.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on May 13th. Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 1st.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one from Aug 22nd to Sept 9th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on May 1st and 24th. Island Barn Res, one intermittently from Oct 12th into 2002. London Wetland Centre, two on Apr 8th, one on July 29th, one from Aug 8th to Sept 5th, with two present on Aug 22nd. Walton Res, one on Aug 5th and 26th.

0194 Shoveler***Anas clypeata***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder.

Breeding took place at two sites this year, with six broods. The table shows counts at well watched localities having 100+ birds at some time during the year. Other counts over 50 are shown below. All Inner London records are shown.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Rainham Marsh	-	4	63	54	30	172	399	320	138
	Walthamstow Res	47	11	-	1	33	187	179	11	41
Herts	Cheshunt GP	-	8	-	-	10	-	42	20	166
Middx	Brent Res	4	2	-	-	72	230	179	18	14
	KGVI Res	131	32	-	-	39	241	150	64	164
	Staines Res	24	130	-	-	-	51	86	80	42
Surrey	Beddington SF	100	92	70	26	38	46	50	61	63
	London Wetland Centre	70	90	112	11	58	119	132	91	240
	Walton Res	122	63	-	-	142	170	130	162	148

- Essex Barking Creekmouth, 100+ on Jan 2nd. Rainham Marsh, five pairs bred.
- Herts Amwell GP, one pair bred, 64 on Jan 3rd. Hilfield Park Res, 128 in December. Rye Meads SF, 62 on Oct 15th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 70 on Oct 12th. Kempton NR, 88 on Sept 23rd.
- Bucks Wrybury GP, 61 on Feb 11th.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, 92 on Jan 13th.
- Surrey QE II Res, 117 on Jan 20th.
- In Lond Battersea Park, 16 on Jan 14th. Buckingham Palace, eight on Nov 10th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, eight on Jan 1st. Regent's Park, 24 on Jan 24th. St James's Park, eight on Jan 24th. Victoria Park, two Nov 1st.

0196 Red-crested Pochard***Netta rufina***

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor.

True status obscured by frequent escapes and feral birds moving about e.g. from St. James's Park. All records are listed except those of obvious escapes which are treated in Appendix 1.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, one on Sept 22nd (LH). King George V Res, one from Nov 3rd to Dec 12th (mo). Valentine's Park, one from Oct 1st to 18th (PHo). Wm Girling Res, one on Sept 30th (PJV) and one from Nov 2nd to 16th (AMi,PJV).
- Herts Cheshunt GP, one from July 28th to Aug 12th (mo). Stanstead Abbots, one on Feb 18th (MDe). Stocker's Lake, one on Feb 3rd (HBC), and two from Nov 10th to 12th (GG,SAH).
- Middx Kempton Park, one on Oct 16th (ADW). King George VI Res, singles on Aug 7th (ADW) and Nov 3rd (PN). Ponder's End Lake, one on Dec 13th, 21st and 31st (SC). Stoke Newington Res, one on July 13th (DGDL), two on Aug 17th (GCG).
- Kent Ruxley GP, one on various dates from June 23rd to Aug 12th, not the pale bird reported 1999-2000, which was only reported once this year at another site (SJG).

Surrey Beddington SF, one from Sept 6th to 13th (BBR). Hersham GP, one on May 9th (DMH). London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 20th (NAn), Nov 9th and Dec 14th (JPPW). QE II Res, one from July 4th to Sept 21st (mo).

0198

Pochard

Aythya ferina

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

31 broods were reported compared with 47 in 2000. Hopefully the present low breeding count is due to the foot-and-mouth epidemic restricting access. The table includes available counts from localities having 100+ birds some time during the year. Under each county the number of broods is listed by locality, and major flocks not in the table.

		Jan	Feb	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Walthamstow Res	201	105	71	114	56	40	115	134
Herts	Cheshunt GP	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	127
	Hilfield Park Res	-	-	168	177	-	-	-	-
	Stocker's Lake	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middx	Broadwater Lake	75	100	-	51	-	50	46	120
	KGVI Res	-	-	10	-	81	315	918	1416
	Staines Res	2	-	-	7	1	-	13	339
Kent	Sevenoaks WR	28	18	3	12	14	17	28	146
Surrey	Island Barn Res	237	149	-	4	44	44	51	141
	Walton Res	87	77	6	6	38	55	59	104
In Lond	Regent's Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	233

Essex Connaught Water, 50 on Nov 22nd. Holyfield Hall Farm (2). Netherall GP, 80 on Oct 24th. Rainham GP (2). Walthamstow Res (4) 91 in June.

Herts Amwell GP, 79 on Jan 20th. Bowyers GP (1).

Middx Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Denham Quarry Lakes, 58 on Nov 4th. Enfield Town Park (3). Harmondsworth, Saxon Lake, 53 on Aug 29th. Osterley Park, 51 on Dec 12th. Stoke Newington Res (3).

Bucks Tilehouse Lakes, 50 on Jan 18th. Wraysbury GP, 87 on Jan 14th.

Kent Ruxley GP, 24 on Dec 23rd.

Surrey London Wetland Centre (1) 58 on Feb 10th. Waddon Ponds, 45 on Mar 10th. Walton Res (2).

In Lond Grand Union Canal between Victoria Park and Westbourne Green (2). Regent's Park (7). St James's Park (4) 41 on Jan 24th. Victoria Park (1) 15 on Dec 1st.

2000 Correction

Surrey Pochard did not breed at Island Barn Res in 2000.

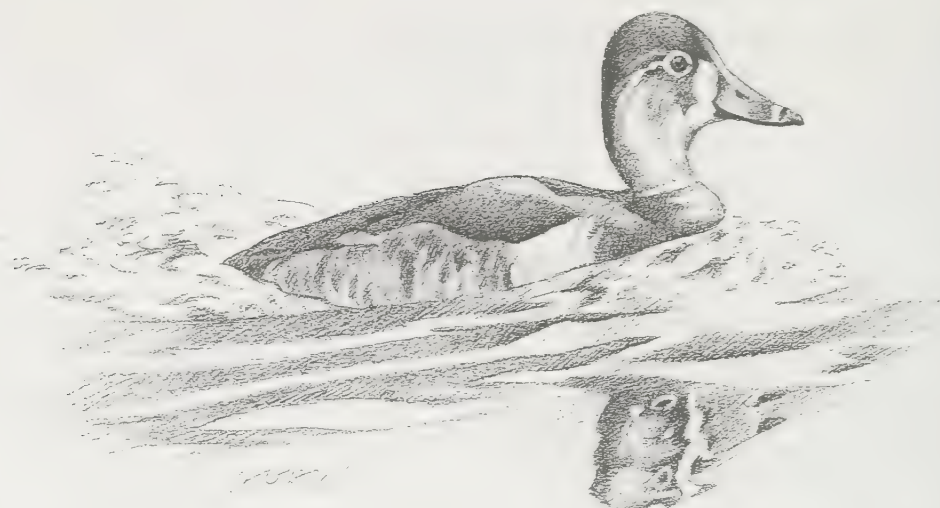
0200

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Status: vagrant.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, an adult drake on May 20th (PMc).



Surrey Ewell, Bourne Hall Park, one first-winter female from Dec 22nd into 2002 (mo). Island Barn and Walton Res, one first-winter female from Nov 25th into 2002, was not the Ewell bird (DMH *et al*).

The 15th to 17th records from the LNHS area.

0202 Ferruginous Duck
Status: rare vagrant.

Aythya nyroca

Essex Netherhall GP, a female from Oct 6th to 15th (MDe,NMy,HVa).

2000 Correction

Middx Kempton NR, a drake on May 22nd (AQ).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee and inadvertently published in Appendix 1 in 2000.

1999 Additional Record

Herts Seventy Acres GP, a female from Oct 28th to Nov 14th (NB).

0203 Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

Status: regular breeding resident and common winter visitor.

245 broods were reported, compared with 179 in 2000. Sites supporting 5+ broods are listed in the text, with the numbers in brackets. The species bred at 64 sites. St James's Park in central London supported 20 broods, the highest number.

The table below shows counts at localities mostly having 300+ birds some time during the year. Peak numbers reported were in August when London's population swells with moulting adults. Maximum counts and all breeding records for Inner London are listed below.

		<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
Essex	K. George V Res	-	150	-	-	-	303	-	300	-
	Walthamstow Res	748	431	-	1431	1838	964	658	537	598
Herts	Cheshunt GP	29	-	-	-	108	-	-	-	338
Middx	Broadwater Lake	210	-	-	-	170	-	455	210	500
	K. George VI Res	77	37	-	460	497	468	448	340	28
	Queen Mary Res	320	10	-	102	-	328	102	64	84
	Shepperton GP	400	250	156	-	-	-	-	300	-
	Staines Res	145	102	-	96	1026	134	113	83	180
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	568	398	105	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	Sevenoaks WR	245	179	42	168	266	316	142	126	146
Surrey	Island Barn Res	313	72	-	65	174	227	438	494	382
	London Wetland Centre	226	261	234	79	75	134	40	120	278
	QE II Res	71	59	-	394	622	103	21	15	48
	Thorpe Water Park	522	381	83	-	-	192	143	379	571
	Walton Res	74	59	-	223	423	225	449	325	504

Essex Connaught Water (7). Dagenham Chase (6). Hall Marsh (5). Harrow Lodge Farm (5). Holyfield Lake (9). Hook's Marsh (10). Hornchurch CP (14). Valentine's Park (6). Walthamstow Res (10).

Herts Amwell GP (12). Cheshunt GP (15).

Kent Ruxley GP (6).

Surrey London Wetland Centre (15). Morden Hall Park (5).

In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Grand Union Canal (Victoria Park to Westbourne Grove) (3). Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (1), 169 on Jan 25th. Little Venice (1). Regent's Park (14), 204 on Dec 1st. St James's Park (20). Surrey Docks, 140 on Jan 15th.

0204 Scaup

Aythya marila

Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor.

Nominally 38 birds were reported during the year but as many as seven of these might have been birds already counted at other locations. All are listed.

Essex Beckton SW, one on Jan 14th (PD). King George V and Royal Albert Docks, two from Jan 12th to Feb 2nd (PD). King George V Res, one from Nov 1st to 3rd (mo). Thames Barrier, two from Mar 9th to 26th (PD). Walthamstow Res, adult male from Mar 21st to June 24th (JFi *et al*).

Herts Amwell GP, first-winter on Nov 10th (BR). Hilfield Park Res, imm male on Jan 14th and 15th, and f/imm from Jan 15th to 17th (HBC).

Middx Brent Res, adult male and imm male from Jan 1st to 13th, female from Feb 28th to Mar 7th, imm male on Mar 25th and 26th, female on Apr 2nd, first-winter female on Nov 24th (WHCG). East India Dock basin, male on Jan 7th, 8th (AJAD,GJ), and 25th (RK). King George VI Res, singles on July 27th (ADW), on Sept 10th (CL) and on Oct 19th (CL).

Bucks Horton GP, one on Dec 31st (CDRH). Queen Mother Res, two males from Dec 16th to 26th, one until Dec 31st (CDRH,JAS). Wraysbury GP, two males from Dec 14th to 16th (CDRH), same birds as Queen Mother Res.

Kent Swanscombe Marsh, one (from 2000) until at least Mar 11th (ACr,MLn,BEW). Thamesmere Lakes, two first-winter females on Jan 7th (AJAD).

Surrey Beddington SF, imm on Oct 11th (BBR). Hogsmill SF, one on May 1st (JGa). Island Barn Res, one from Nov 13th to year end joined by a juv on Nov 17th and Dec 1st (DMH,PN,SJS). London Wetland Centre, female on Nov 3rd and 4th, one on Dec 7th, male from Dec 14th to 26th joined by first-winter male from Dec 15th to 19th and also present on Dec 28th and 30th (mo). Walton Res, female on Dec 2nd, 9th, and 16th probably the same as Island Barn bird. (DMH,CL,SJS).

In Lond Regent's Park, a male present all year (ARD,DJ).

0212 Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Status: scarce but annual visitor.

Surrey Walton Res, one immature drake on Dec 9th (SJS).

0213 Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

Status: scarce winter visitor.

Essex King George V Res, one from Jan 1st to Feb 23rd (mo). Rainham Marsh, one on Apr 22nd (DMo,SRPg). R. Thames at North Woolwich, one on Dec 16th, also seen from Kent side (AJAD,PD). Wm Girling Res, one on Sept 1st and 11th (AJG,PJV).

Middx King George VI Res, three f/imms on Nov 12th and 13th (KLP). Queen Mary Res, one on Nov 17th (PN). Harmondsworth, Saxon Lake, one on Apr 24th (ADW). Staines Res, one on Feb 18th (CL, KLP).

Surrey Island Barn Res, one from Apr 19th to 21st (DMH). QE II Res, one from Feb 18th to at least 27th when reservoir closed (DMH,SJS), and one on Sept 19th (DMH).

0215 Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

Status: rare winter visitor, mostly October to January

Surrey Island Barn Res, four immatures from Dec 9th into 2002 (DMH *et al*). Walton Res, one immature from Dec 7th until April 2002 (SJS *et al*).

The assignment of sex for these five birds was extremely difficult and some could not be classified with any certainty even late in their stay.

0218 Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

Status: common winter visitor, occasional in summer.

Monthly maxima reported from sites having 20+ birds are tabulated. The text lists other monthly maxima of five or more.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	KGV Res	55	49	-	-	5	33	40
	Walthamstow Res	26	26	24	3	-	10	17
	Wm Girling Res	17	-	-	-	-	20	-
Herts	Amwell GP	21	34	25	6	-	10	14
Middx	Broadwater Lake	32	32	-	-	7	14	8
	KGVI Res	15	24	-	-	16	44	8
	Moorhall Lake	-	30	-	-	-	-	-
	Staines Res	77	97	-	4	5	22	62
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	56	61	27	11	-	20	29
Surrey	QE II Res	20	14	-	-	-	4	5
	Thorpe Water Park	25	15	3	-	-	2	11

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, six on Nov 18th.

Herts Cheshunt GP, six on Jan 3rd and Feb 5th. Rye Meads SF, ten on Mar 15th. Stocker's Lake, 18 on Feb 1st.

Middx Shepperton GP, 17 on Feb 18th and 13 on Mar 5th.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, five on Jan 28th, 12 on Feb 22nd and five on Dec 27th.

Surrey Field Common GP, 16 on Feb 24th and 12 on Mar 4th. Island Barn Res, nine on Jan 20th, and nine on Dec 16th.

0220 Smew

Mergus albellus

Status: winter visitor in varied numbers.

All recorded localities are listed, with the maxima for the first and second winter periods in brackets. This gives totals of 137 and 69 birds during the two winter periods, in line with the totals reported in the previous two years. Birds were reported from 27 sites in the first winter period and from 17 in the second, compared with 30 and 16 in 2000.

Essex Dagenham Chase (2:2). Fishers Green (3:3). Hollow Pond (1:0). Holyfield Lake (2:4). Hooks Marsh (4:3). Hornchurch CP (1:0). Nazeing GP (6:0). Netherall GP (13:3). South Ockenden, Old Carp Lake (0:2). Walthamstow Res (2:0).

Herts Amwell GP (10:8). Cheshunt GP (10:12). Hilfield Park Res (4:1). Stocker's Lake (2:4).

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (5:0). Broadwater Lake (4:3). King George VI Res (0:3). Korda Lake (6:0). Moorhall Lake (7:1). Ruislip Lido (1:0). Staines Res (4:1).

Bucks Queen Mother Res (1:0). Tilehouse Lakes (1:0). Wraysbury GP (29:12).

Kent Ruxley GP (1:0). Sevenoaks WR (2:1).

Surrey Island Barn Res (2:0). Thorpe Water Park (14:6). Walton Res (1:0).

0221 Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

During the first and second winter periods just six and seven birds were recorded respectively, compared with 17 and six in 2000.

- Essex King George V Res, singles on Jan 17th (CBk), Feb 17th and 22nd (SRH,JMy), and on Dec 30th (HBk,TBk).
- Middx Staines Res, f/imms from Jan 4th to Feb 3rd, Jan 18th to 20th, Feb 3rd (mo), Oct 20th (PN) and two from Nov 13th until Dec 26th (mo).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, female on Jan 27th (PN).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on R. Thames on Oct 20th (DMr,PRn). Sevenoaks WR, one on Nov 14th (MC).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, female from Nov 3rd to 12th (HBw *et al*).

0223 Goosander***Mergus merganser***

Status: regular but scarce winter visitor.

Monthly maxima reported from sites having 10+ birds are tabulated. The text lists annual maxima in sectors not in the table.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Banbury Res	9	14	3	-	4	7
	Nazeing GP	25	18	8	-	-	12
Middx	Denham Quarry Lake	13	8	-	-	-	16
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	14	3	2	-	15	16
Surrey	QE II Res	38	41	-	1	3	22
	Walton Res	26	27	-	1	23	28

Herts Stocker's Lake, 12 on Jan 1st.

Kent Chipstead Lake, three on Dec 16th.

In Lond Paddington Green, a pair flew W on Oct 28th (DTM).

0225 Ruddy Duck***Oxyura jamaicensis***

Status: widespread winter visitor of feral origin, resident in small numbers, and localised breeder.

Monthly maxima reported from sites having 50+ birds are tabulated. All definite breeding reports are listed in the text, with numbers of broods at each site in brackets. 18 confirmed attempts at breeding were reported, compared with 12+ in 2000 and 19 in 1999.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	KGV Res	51	56	-	-	4	5	8	53
	Walthamstow Res	85	41	-	6	12	19	25	63
Herts	Hilfield Park Res	206	-	-	-	-	-	161	-
Middx	Brent Res	20	6	-	31	101	73	37	15
	Broadwater Lake	114	72	-	-	-	18	71	100
	KGVI Res	-	-	-	-	31	118	217	284
	Staines Res	441	316	-	36	4	7	18	346
Surrey	Walton Res	56	50	-	-	19	31	57	58

Essex Belhus Woods CP (1). Dagenham Chase (1). Harrow Lodge Farm (2). South Park, Ilford (1).

Herts Beech Farm GP (1). Cheshunt GP (1). Hilfield Park Res (2).

Middx Brent Res (2). Stanwell Moor (1).

Surrey London Wetland Centre (2).

In Lond Buckingham Palace (1+). Regent's Park (2 pairs bred but all young died). St James's Park (1).

0231 Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

Status: scarce summer visitor.



Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Apr 12th and Aug 30th (KJM,ATa). Limpsfield Chart, one on Sept 19th (PJO). Moorhouse, one flew over on July 17th (PJO).

Four records this year, in contrast with 2000's massive autumn influx. The one in April was an extremely early migrant.

0239 Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

Essex Chingford Plain, one juv on Sept 10th (KM). Fishers Green, one on June 18th (PJV).

Herts Amwell GP, one on June 17th (BR). Cheshunt GP, one on June 3rd (JMy). Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 1st (GJW).

Middx Trent Park, one on Mar 31st (RMC).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 9th (GDJM,APe). Purley, one on May 5th (NHt). Walton Res, one on Aug 27th (DMH). West Ewell, one on Apr 9th (MBt).

Ten records this year, compared to five in 2000.

0260 Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

Status: scarce but increasing passage migrant.

All records given, females/immatures unless stated otherwise:

- Essex Berwick Ponds, one on May 7th (DMn). Barking Creekmouth, one on June 6th (CFr). Fairlop Lakes CP, one on Oct 28th (DCy,PCy,PHo). Rainham Marsh, singles on May 1st (PTs), 6th and 12th (DMn), and Sept 23rd (DMn).
- Herts Amwell GP, one sub-adult male on Mar 17th (GJW); singles on Mar 29th (HBC) and Aug 5th (GJW). Stocker's Lake, one on Mar 25th (HBC).
- Middx King George VI Res, one on Sept 6th (CLa). Staines Moor, one on May 11th (PN).
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one on Oct 12th (TRS). Swanscombe Marsh, one on May 13th and 19th (MLn,BEW).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 8th (BBR). London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 25th (RKa), May 3rd (JPPW) and 20th (NPS). Putney, one on Aug 23rd (RKa).

Twenty records this year, just slightly down on last year's record of 22.

0261 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
Status: scarce visitor, most occurring on passage.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, an imm female from Oct 6th to 16th (mo).
- Surrey Headley Heath, a male flew N on Jan 6th (CRP,SPo).
- In Lond Regent's Park, a male flew S on Nov 5th (ARD).

0263 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*
Status: rare vagrant.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, one immature on May 28th flew S at 17.10 hrs (KB).

This is the 20th record in the LNHS area, and the first since 1995.

0267 Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*
Status: rare, most records during migration seasons.

- Middx Bushy Park, one on Sept 20th (HWE).
- Surrey Hersham GP, one flew N at 15.00 on Apr 30th (SJS). Putney, one flew E at 15.20 on Aug 29th (NB,RKa).

These three records bring the total from the LNHS area to 25, all but nine having been since 1990.

0269 Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Status: widespread breeding resident.

Recorded breeding totals are summarised, along with the total number of sites at which birds were seen. Since the species is cryptic during the nesting season all reliable evidence of breeding is included in the figures. The breeding total for the year, 62 pairs, is much lower than in 2000 (167+, LBR

2000) which, however, included an estimate of '25+' for Bucks not repeated in the current year's figure. During the more intensive 1988-1994 survey (Hewlett, 2002) no fewer than 327 tetrads (2km-squares) had evidence of breeding. This, and the density of the specially studied Wimbledon Common population, suggest that breeding in the species is currently greatly under-recorded. Sightings of the species were reported from 223 localities compared with 260 in 2000.

Essex	Reported from 59 sites, with 44 pairs confirmed as breeding.
Herts	Seen at 15 sites, with evidence of breeding at eight.
Middx	Recorded from 39 sites, breeding at 11.
Bucks	Reported from just three sites, with no breeding record.
Kent	Recorded from 24 sites, but no breeding record excepting two 'probable' pairs.
Surrey	Seen at 70 sites with 14 reported breeding pairs. Six of the breeding pairs were on Wimbledon Common. The nests of five of these pairs were located, of which only one was unsuccessful, and three additional juvs were seen there, giving an overall total of '15+' juvs reared at this one site (DWs).
In Lond	Bred in Buckingham Palace gardens, Regent's Park and 'probably' at Paddington Recreation Ground. Seen at 12 sites.

0287 Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

Status: rare breeder, and scarce but slowly increasing visitor.

All records are listed. Just one breeding record was submitted compared with two in 2000. The species was reported from 48 sites compared with 63 in 2000.

Essex	Chingford, singles on Feb 28th, Aug 16th and 29th. Fishers Green, two on Apr 1st. Galleyhill Wood, one on Aug 5th. High Beech, one on June 18th. Loughton, two on Aug 28th. South Weald, one on May 1st. Thrift Wood, one on June 19th. Waterworks NR, one on Apr 29th. Site A, one young fledged.
Herts	Amwell GP, singles on May 24th and 26th and Aug 16th; and 2-3 on June 21st, 30th and July 15th. Hatfield, singles on Aug 4th and Sept 15th. Hawkins Wood, one on July 20th. North Mymms Park, singles on Nov 9th, 22nd and 30th. Panshanger Wood, two on May 29th and one on Nov 1st. Prae Wood, two on Feb 24th. Rye Meads SF, singles on Feb 24th and May 3rd. SW of Sarratt, singles on Nov 4th and 15th. Shafford Farm, St Albans, three on Aug 5th and one on Oct 15th. St Albans, one on Dec 11th. Stanstead Abbots GP, one on Aug 12th.
Middx	Brent Res, one on Jan 28th. Bushy Park, one on May 11th. Hampstead Heath, one on Mar 25th. King George VI Res, one on Sept 6th. Trent Park, singles on Aug 29th and Oct 22nd. Twickenham town centre, one 'in May'. Vicarage Farm, one on Aug 27th.
Bucks	Oakend Wood, one on Aug 10th.
Kent	Chipstead Lake, singles on Aug 20th and Oct 27th. Oxleas Wood, one on May 20th. Sevenoaks WR, singles on Apr 29th, Sept 4th, and Nov 11th. There were no reports received concerning the breeding pair on the North Downs this year.

Surrey

Addington, singles on Apr 14th, Aug 15th and 16th. Beddington SF, two on Apr 24th, and singles on Apr 1st, 12th and 26th; May 1st, 10th, 15th and 20th; June 9th and 11th, and Sept 21st. Beddlestead Valley, one on Dec 3rd. Chelsham, one on Dec 30th. Claygate Common, one on Nov 15th, 16th and 22nd. Croydon, one on Apr 13th. Dawcombe, one on July 15th. London Wetland Centre, one on Oct 13th. New Addington, one on July 19th. Purley, one on Dec 9th. Sanderstead, one on Dec 9th. Shirley, two on July 27th. Tadworth, one on Sept 22nd. Walton-on-the-Hill, one from mid-July into 2002. Woldingham, one on Apr 14th.

In Lond

Bayswater, one flying E on May 8th (DTM). Kensington Gardens, one flew over at 15.20 on Feb 9th (PCK).

Buzzard sp.

Buteo/Pernis sp.

Surrey

Beddington SF, one on Sept 5th. Esher, one on Aug 24th. Warlingham, one over on May 29th.

0301

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Status: scarce passage migrant.

All records were of birds flying over. Nine or ten birds were adequately reported, compared with 15 (including the newly included record below) in 2000 and 11 in 1999 (*LBR2000*).

Herts

Amwell GP, one on Apr 1st (BR).

Middx

Brent Res, one SW at 17.25 on Sept 25th (ASMS). Hampstead Heath, one on Sept 26th (WEO). Trent Park, one on Sept 26th (RMC).

Bucks

Queen Mother Res, one flew NW at 17.45 on Apr 1st (CDRH).

Surrey

Beddington SF, singles on Apr 15th (GDJM) and Sept 19th (KJM). Richmond Park, one on Sept 29th (AGs). Walton Res, one on Sept 26th (DMH).

In Lond

Paddington Green, one S at 09.18 on Sept 26th (DTM).

2000 Additional record

Surrey

Beddington SF, one W on Apr 21st (NG,GDJM).

0304

Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Status: common breeding resident.

The table shows submitted records of breeding, probable breeding and other pairs present. The grand total of 105 pairs (139 in 2000, 121 in 1999) compares with no fewer than 523 'tetrads' or 2km-squares with 'evidence of breeding' recorded in the same area by the 1988-1994 survey (Hewlett, 2002). The species is clearly under-recorded.

	<i>Pairs proved breeding</i>	<i>Pairs probably breeding</i>	<i>Other pairs present</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Essex	53	-	2	55
Herts	5	1	-	6

Middx	7	3	-	10
Bucks	-	-	-	-
Kent	6	2	-	8
Surrey	16	6	-	22
In Lond	2	2	-	4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>105</i>

The number of sites from which the species was reported (with 2000 figures in brackets) were: Essex, 49 (56); Herts 12 (11); Middlesex 15 (16); Bucks 1 (17); Kent 22 (23); Surrey 36 (41); and Inner London 21 (not recorded), giving totals of 156 (164 in 2000 plus unknown Inner London data). The 1988-1994 survey reported birds from 808 tetrads.

0309 Merlin *Falco columbarius*
Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Middx East India Dock Basin, one on Jan 15th (RKA).
Bucks Queen Mother Res, a female flew N at 15.40 (CDRH).
Surrey Beddington SF, one imm/female on Oct 28th (JPA, BBR). QE II Res, one immature on Nov 4th (DMH).

Just four records were considered acceptable, several more claims were not backed up by notes.

0310 Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Status: scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The table shows submitted records of breeding, probable breeding and other pairs present, with 2000 figures in brackets.

	<i>Pairs proved breeding</i>	<i>Pairs probably breeding</i>	<i>Other pairs present</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Essex	1 (3)	2 (2)	2 (4)	5 (9)
Herts	2 (3)	1 (-)	- (2)	3 (5)
Middx	1 (-)	2 (-)	- (2)	3 (2)
Bucks	- (-)	- (-)	- (3)	- (3)
Kent	- (2)	- (-)	2 (-)	2 (2)
Surrey	2 (2)	1 (-)	- (1)	3 (3)
In Lond	- (1)	- (-)	2 (-)	2 (1)
<i>Totals</i>	<i>6 (11)</i>	<i>6 (2)</i>	<i>6 (12)</i>	<i>18 (25)</i>

Although confirmed and suspected breeding totals in the sectors were mostly down on the previous year, the number of localities at which Hobbies were recorded was up perhaps suggesting overall stability. The number of sites from which the species was reported was: Essex, 42, Herts 22, Middx 25, Bucks 10, Kent 12, Surrey 28, and Inner London 4, giving a total of 143 sites in the LNHS area (115 in 2000). The 1988-1994 survey reported birds from 191 2km-sq tetrads, with evidence of breeding in 84 (Hewlett, 2002). Major counts are given below, and all Inner London records.

- Essex Highest counts: six birds in Hornchurch CP on July 16th, and six, likely the same birds, over nearby Berwick Ponds at 21.20 same day.
- Herts Major counts: Amwell GP, 10 on June 7th. Troy Mill GP, 10 on May 13th.
- Middx Osterley Park, four on Sept 3rd. Parkside Farm/Res, four on Sept 3rd. Staines Moor, five on June 12th.
- Bucks Highest counts: Horton GP, 10 on May 22nd and June 7th and 11th.
- Kent Highest count: Swanscombe Marsh, five on May 13th.
- Surrey Major counts: four birds were reported from each of the following – Banstead Wood, on Aug 21st, Beddington SF on Aug 28th and London Wetland Centre, on July 1st and Sept 1st.
- In Lond Paddington Green, singles on June 21st and Sept 5th and 9th, and two birds 'swooping at each other' on July 18th. Queen's Park, one on Sept 28th. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 7th, May 7th and 13th, Aug 10th, and Oct 17th. Victoria Park, three flew E on Sept 9th.

0320 Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*
 Status: rare breeder and scarce visitor.

All records are listed or at least summarised, for maybe the last year in which this will be practical. For the first time a pair bred in Inner London, raising three young. The only breeding pair in the LNHS area hitherto, in Kent, raised two young and another pair may also have bred in that sector. Approximately 112 birds were seen this year compared to about 61 in 2000.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, singles on Sept 2nd, 4th and 22nd, and Nov 2nd. Barking Creekmouth, two on Apr 13th and 16th, and one on Nov 30th. Barking (R. Roding), two on Apr 14th, one on Sept 23rd. Berwick Ponds, one on Aug 15th. Bulphan Fen, one on Dec 14th and 28th. Copped Hall, one on Dec 9th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Jan 1st. Fairlop Lakes CP, one on Aug 11th and 19th. Fishers Green, singles on Jan 1st and Nov 15th and 24th. Hall Marsh, one on Sept 9th. Harrow Lodge Farm, singles on Feb 11th and on six dates in Nov-Dec. King George V Res, one juv on Sept 2nd. Millennium Mills, one on July 20th and 26th. QE II Bridge, one on July 13th. Rainham Marsh, two on June 24th and Nov 5th, and singles on seven dates. Romford, one on May 23rd. Thames Barrier, one on Jan 23rd. Wm Girling Res, singles on Feb 17th and Sept 1st.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Sept 16th. Rush Green, one on Nov 4th.
- Middx Brent Res, singles on Mar 3rd and 10th. Canary Wharf, one on Aug 19th. East India Dock basin, one on Jan 15th and two on June 1st. Isle of Dogs, one on Oct 31st; and on nearby R. Thames, two on Feb 26th 'probably displaying'. King George VI Res, two on Oct 28th and Dec 27th, and singles on 19 other dates from July to Dec. Staines Moor, three feeding on a gull-kill on Mar 24th, two on Jan 25th and 28th, Feb 10th and Mar 23rd, and singles on Feb 16th, 24th and 26th, and Mar 7th. Vicarage Farm, one on Feb 19th.
- Bucks Horton GP, singles on Apr 6 and 7th, May 8th and June 19th. Queen Mother Res, singles on five dates, and an adult and juvenile on Sept 20th. Wraysbury GP, one on Dec 21st.

- Kent Site A, summered, possibly breeding with unconfirmed report of one young raised. Site B, a pair successfully raised two young, estimated to have hatched on May 12th; in autumn reported on just three dates, singles on Sept 15th and Dec 4th, and two on Nov 17th. Thamesmead, one on Apr 29th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on nine dates. Chelsham, one on July 30th. Croydon, singles on Aug 9th and Sept 3rd. Limpsfield Chart, one on Oct 12th. London Wetland Centre, two ads and a juv on July 7th, two on Oct 13th, and singles on 13 dates. Morden Hall Park, two on Dec 14th. Nonsuch Park, one on Jan 27th. QE II Res, one on Aug 17th.
- In Lond Site C, a pair raised three young, (first breeding record from Inner London). Hyde Park, singles on June 11th and July 13th. Lombard Street, EC3, one on Nov 21st. London Bridge, one on Jan 18th. Millbank Tower area, singles on Apr 14th and May 10th. Millwall FC ground, one on Feb 13th. Paddington Green W2, singles on five dates in summer. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 22nd, Apr 11th and May 20th. St James's Park, one on June 22nd. Tate Modern, singles noted on 34 dates from June until December, with two birds on five dates.

0358 Red-legged Partridge***Alectoris rufa***

Status: breeding resident, declining..

- Essex In the breeding season reported from: Berwick Ponds, Fairlop Lakes CP, Gunpowder Park, Holyfield Hall Farm, Hornchurch CP, Navestock Heath and Noak Hill. A hundred birds were reportedly released near Copped Hall and 20 on Sept 23rd at Cobb Fields were probably released. Also recorded at Hayes Hill Farm, South Weald and Thurrock Angling Lakes in winter.
- Herts In the breeding season reported from: Amwell GP, North Mymms Park and Shenleybury. Also recorded at Coursers Lane Fields, Park Street, Terbets Hill (Stanstead Abbots) and Tyttenhanger GP in winter.
- Middx Bred at Vicarage Farm. Also recorded at Harrow, Park Farm (Enfield), Parkside Farm/Res and Rammey Marsh outside the breeding season.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Oct 13th.
- Kent Crofton Heath, one paired with a Chukar hybrid in April.
- Surrey In the breeding season reported from: Fickleshole and Trevereux/Swaynesland. Also 3-6 recorded at Moorhouse in October and December.

A similar set of records to last year with a handful of breeding reports.

0367 Grey Partridge***Perdix perdix***

Status: breeding resident, declining.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 10+ pairs bred. Also recorded at Beckton SW, Berwick Ponds, Hornchurch CP, Orsett and Rainham Marsh in breeding season.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, pair bred. Bricket Wood/Common, a pair in July. Also recorded at Chiswell Green, Noke Farm, Potters Crouch and Welwyn Garden City outside of breeding season.
- Middx Trent Park, one on Apr 18th. Vicarage Farm, one on May 24th.

- 0370 Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*
 Status: rare summer visitor.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, at least one calling on May 25th (TRS).
 After the blank year in 2000, there was just the one record this year.
- 0394 Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*
 Status: common breeding resident.
- Breeding records (number of broods/pairs/territories in brackets) and other locations are listed below.
- Essex Beckton SW (3). Dagnam Park (1+). Gunpowder Park (1). Hall Marsh (1). Hornchurch CP (9). Nazeing GP (1). Netherhall GP (1). Rainham Marsh, 33 on Nov 23rd.
- Herts Maple Lodge NR (1). Present all year at the following locations: Abbots Langley, Batlers Green (Radlett), Bricket Wood area, Chiswell Green area, Garston, Otterspool and Rye Meads SF.
- Middx Bushy Park (3). Hampton Court Park (4). Rammey Marsh (4). Staines Moor (1). Also reported from Brent Res, King George VI Res and Stanwell Moor.
- Bucks Denham Mount (1). Kingcup Farm (1). Woodlands Park GP (1). Also reported from Chalfont Park, Isle of Wight Farm and Oakend Wood.
- Kent Hall Place Gardens, probably bred for shooting in nearby wood. Thamesmead (2). Also reported from Hogtrough Hill, Ruxley GP, Sevenoaks WR and Swanscombe Marsh.
- Surrey Beddington SF (1+). Island Barn Res (1). Also reported from Addington Hills, Ashted Common, Croydon, Hersham GP, Lloyd Park (Croydon), London Wetland Centre, Molesey Heath, Oxted, Sanderstead, Waddon, Walton Res, West End Common and Wimbledon Common.
- 0407 Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*
 Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; rare breeder.
- The numbers for each site in both winter periods (Jan-Apr and Sept-Dec) are listed below along with breeding records.
- Essex Belhus Woods CP (0:1). Berwick Ponds (2:3). Brett's Farm (1:0). Bush Farm, one on May 28th. Copped Hall (0:1). Cornmill Meadows (1:1). Dagenham Chase (2:2). Fishers Green (4:3). Hall Marsh (0:2). Harold Wood SF (2:0). Holyfield Hall Farm (0:1). Hooks Marsh (0:2). Hornchurch CP (9:8). Kennington Park (2:0). Nags Head SW (2:0). Netherhall GP (0:1). Rainham Marsh (0:2). Sewardstone Marsh (7:1). South Ockendon (0:1). Walthamstow Res (2:0). Warley Place (3:0). Waterworks NR (1:0).
- Herts Amwell GP (4:3), one pair nested. Broxbourne GP (3:1). Cassiobury Park (3:0). Cheshunt GP (3:3). Croxley Moor (0:1). Rye House Marsh (3:0). Rye Meads SF (9:10), four pairs bred. Seventy Acres GP (4:10+).

- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (0:1). Brent Res (6:6). Broadwater Lake (4:2). Bushy Park (1:0). Coppetts Wood (1:0). Kempton NR (1:2). Ponders End Lake (0:1). Queen Mary Res (1:0). Rammey Marsh (1:0). Tottenham Marsh (1:0). Twickenham (0:1).
- Bucks Denham (River Colne) (1:1). Horton GP (1:1). Wraysbury GP (1:2).
- Kent Chipstead Lake (2:1). Danson Park (1:1). Foots Cray Meadows (1:1). Ruxley GP (4:9). Sevenoaks WR (2:2). Swanscombe Marsh (3+:0). Thamesmere Lakes (0:2).
- Surrey Beddington SF (0:2). Epsom Common (1:0). Hersham GP (1:0). Island Barn Res (River Mole) (1:3). London Wetland Centre (6:52), one pair bred. Morden Hall Park (3:6). Oxted (Hurst Green) (0:1). R.Ember (East Molesey) (1:2). R.Mole (West Molesey) (1:2). R.Thames (Putney) (1:0). South Norwood CP (1:2). Spencer Road Wetland (Hackbridge) (0:1). Walton Res (5:4).

A new London record count of 52 was set at the London Wetland Centre on Dec 15th by the use of a tape lure. The November count from this site was just 12 giving an idea of how many Water Rails go undetected in London.

0424 Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Status: very common breeding resident.

Details of site maximum counts (50+), reported breeding records (5+) and Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Fishers Green, 68 on Jan 7th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 126 on Dec 2nd. Hornchurch CP, 113 on Sept 15th. South Park (Ilford), six broods. Walthamstow Res, 64 on Nov 24th, seven broods.
- Herts Amwell GP, 19 pairs nested. Cheshunt GP, 28 broods. Rye Meads SF, 108 on Sept 15th.
- Middx Brent Res, 104 on Nov 4th. Bushy Park, 50+ on Dec 12th, five pairs. Hampstead Heath, 71 on Nov 4th. Hampton Court Park, five pairs. Ickenham, six pairs. Middlesex FB, five pairs bred.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, 53 on Dec 1st.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, 130 on Feb 11th, most nests destroyed by Channel Tunnel rail link excavations.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 94 in July. Morden Hall Park, 55 on Dec 14th, 13 broods. London Wetland Centre, 208 in December, 15 broods. Wimbledon Common, 12 breeding pairs.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one pair bred. Grand Union Canal (Victoria Park to Westbourne Green) c6 pairs bred. Little Venice, one pair bred. Regent's Park, bred, max count 68. St James's Park, 52 on Nov 21st, 10 broods. The Watergardens W2, one pair bred.

0429 Coot***Fulica atra***

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Details of site maximum counts (400+), reported breeding records in brackets (10+) and Inner London records are given below

- Essex Connaught Water (14). Holyfield Hall Farm, 578 on Sept 2nd. Netherhall GP (12). South Park, Ilford (11). Stubbers OPC (17), 521 on Oct 28 and Nov 30th. Walthamstow Res (42), 727 on Oct 14th.
- Herts Amwell GP (19), 456 on Dec 8th. Bowyer's GP, 428 on Dec 2nd. Cheshunt GP (93). Rye Meads SF, 602 on Sept 15th. Stocker's Lake (23).
- Middx Brent Res, 784 on Nov 4th. Broadwater Lake (12), 610 on Nov 23rd. Grand Union Canal, Northolt to Westbourne Green (17). Shepperton GP, 400+ on Jan 7th. Staines Res, 553 on Sept 16th. R. Lee Navigation Channel: Tottenham Lock to Old Ford Lock (24).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 800 on Jan 14th.
- Kent Danson Park, 222 on Dec 10th. Thamesmead (c10).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 591 in August. London Wetland Centre (22), 522 on Dec 17th. Thorpe Water Park, 434 on Jan 7th. Wimbledon Common (10).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (6). Camley Street Natural Park (1). Canada Water (4). Grand Union Canal (Victoria Park to Westbourne Green) (14). Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, (2), 96 on Jan 25th. Lavender Pond, Rotherhithe (3). Little Venice (1). Regent's Park (bred), maximum 135. St James's Park (24), 113 on Nov 13th. Surrey Docks (5+). Victoria Park (5).

0450 Oystercatcher***Haematopus ostralegus***

Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding or territorial pairs were present at Barking Bay/Marsh (two pairs bred), Beckton SW (one pair), Creekmouth (one pair bred), Rainham Marsh (three pairs – one nest found), and the Thames Barrier (one pair bred). This total is up on last year and more in line with those of 1998/9.

Peak counts on the Lower Thames were 12 at Barking Bay/Marsh on July 15th, 8 at Rainham Marsh on July 29th, 11 at Greenhithe on Aug 18th and 8 at the Thames Barrier on Aug 26th all possibly relating to local breeding birds. A little further upriver 15 were at the East India Dock Basin on Aug 26th.

All records away from the Lower Thames are shown below and relate to singles unless otherwise stated.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, two on Aug 3rd. Holyfield Hall Farm, Feb 27th, two on Apr 27th, June 6th. King George V Res, May 20th and Sept 2nd. Walthamstow Res, from Mar 24th to 25th, May 19th, three on June 18th, Sept 18th. Wm Girling Res, Sept 1st.
- Herts Cassiobury Park, Nov 3rd. Hilfield Park Res, Apr 9th.
- Middx Brent Res, May 17th and Aug 9th. King George VI Res, May 20th, July 8th, and 14th, three July 30th, one Aug 1st and 7th, two Aug 17th. Staines Moor, Apr 25th and May 24th. Stanwell Moor GP, June 1st.

- Bucks Horton GP, May 19th. Queen Mother Res, July 18th and 24th, two Aug 2nd.
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, May 31st.
 Surrey Beddington SF, Apr 18th, May 11th and July 14th. Island Barn Res, Feb 13th and four Aug 15th. London Wetland Centre, Mar 7th, four May 10th and one July 6th. QE II Res, July 16th and 20th and Aug 1st. Walton Res, Aug 2nd.

0456 Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Status: a scarce visitor in all months of the year, has bred once.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, two on Apr 30th and 15 on Oct 21st (SRPg,PSt).
 Middx Brent Res, one on Mar 25th flew in from west, but was chased off by gulls (LAB,ASMS,AGV).
 Surrey South Norwood CP, one on Mar 20th (JBi).

A relatively poor year, but typical in terms of timings, with March becoming a good month for this species in recent years.

0459 Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedichnemus*

Status: a scarce passage migrant.

- Surrey QEII Res, one flew SSW over the reservoir at 05.32 on Aug 6th (DMH).

An impossible bird to predict and no doubt something of a shock to anyone lucky enough to find one.

0469 Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First of the year was at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 7th followed by a further 19 records during March. Ten at Amwell GP and 14 at the London Wetland Centre were the highest spring counts, both counts reflecting the number of pairs at these sites.

Breeding records were as follows:

	Sites	Pairs attempting breeding	Other pairs present	Total
Essex	10	4	18	22
Herts	4	9	2	11
Middx	2	1	1	2
Bucks	0	0	0	0
Kent	1	3	0	3
Surrey	4	5	5	10
Total	21	22	26	48

A small increase this year with, again, the Essex sector dominating, although the largest number of pairs were at the London Wetland Centre (7) and Amwell GP (5).

In autumn the highest counts were all in July from: Rainham Marsh (23); Tyttenhanger GP (19) and Cornmill Meadows (14). The last report of the year was at Tyttenhanger GP on Oct 3rd, the first October record since 1990.

0470

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Status: localised breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeding records are summarised in the table below:

	Sites	Pairs attempting breeding	Other pairs present	Total
Essex	6	3	8	11
Herts	2	3	1	4
Middx	2	0	2	2
Bucks	0	0	0	0
Kent	3	1	3	4
Surrey	1	0	1	1
Total	13	7	14	22

Peak site counts along the Lower Thames included 61 at Barking Bay/Marsh on Nov 4th, 24 at Rainham Marsh on May 1st, 33 at Dartford Marsh on Aug 23rd, 71 at Greenhithe on Aug 19th and 29 at Stone Marsh on Dec 22nd. The August build up is fairly typical, but less typical is the paucity of high winter counts, with 39 at Barking Bay/Marsh during October being the next nearest to the 61 above.

Away from the Thames, counts were also fairly low with only eight counts in double figures and no more than 12 at any one site. There were, however, 12 at three sites, as follows: Tyttenhanger GP on June 5th, King George VI Res on Sept 16th and Staines Moor on May 14th.

0485

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the Area, scarce winter and passage migrant elsewhere.

Winter flocks occurred at most of the regular Essex and Herts sites although for the first time since 1995 numbers failed to reach 2000 at any site.

Two late birds were at Rainham Marsh on May 13th, none were present in June and July, but August saw a flock of 72 flying west over Horsenden Hill on 15th, the Tyttenhanger bird (below) on the 20th, 15 NE over Dartford Marsh on 23rd and one at King George VI on 25th.

Summarised in the table below are the sites in Essex and Herts with flocks in excess of 300, followed by all records for the remaining counties.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Dagenham Chase	1834	92	-	-	-	350	550	1200
	Fairlop Lake/Plain	-	-	800	-	-	150	500	500
	Holyfield Hall Farm	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
	Waltham Point	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herts	Beech Farm GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	1000
	Cheshunt	1121	300	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Colney Heath	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-
	Great Amwell	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	500
	Maple Cross	550	-	-	-	-	-	1000	999
	Oylers Farm	-	300	-	-	-	-	-	1100
	Prae Wood	1100	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Radlett Aero GP	-	-	-	700	-	-	-	-
	Tyttenhanger GP	-	-	-	-	1	-	750	250
	Woodoaks Fm	331	250	-	-	-	9	-	867

- Middx Brent Res, one on Jan 20th and 14 on Jan 22nd. Harmondsworth, 150 on Nov 18th. Horsenden Hill, 72 west on Aug 15th and one NE on Oct 20th. Kempton NR, seven on Feb 11th. King George VI Res, one on Aug 25th, five on Oct 19th and six on Dec 9th. Parkside Farm/Res, ten flew east Oct 28th.
- Bucks Horton Fields, 33 on Jan 21st and one on Jan 22nd. Langley, 76 on Mar 6th. Withy Bridge, Iver, present until Feb 23rd and again from Oct 17th with winter maxima of 170 on Feb 23rd and 108 on Dec 8th. Woodlands Park GP, 46 on Feb 23rd.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 15 NE on Aug 23rd and five on Sept 21st. Swanley, 200 present until Feb near Junction 3 of the M25.
- Surrey Beddington SF, four on Jan 1st, 11 on Jan 13th and singles on Feb 14th, Oct 6th and 28th and Nov 4th and 10th. Epsom Downs, one on Jan 6th. Hersham GP, two on Feb 7th, singles on Feb 12th and 15th-16th, but 22 on Feb 13th. Island Barn Res, one on Nov 3rd. London Wetland Centre, one on May 10th. QE II Res, 15 on Feb 13th and one on Oct 27th. Walton Res, one on Feb 2nd.

0486 Grey Plover***Pluvialis squatarola***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor

- Essex King George V Res, one on May 14th (LVPR). Rainham Marsh, one on May 6th, three on 12th, two on 13th and three on 28th (DMn,SRPg). Wm Girling Res, two on Aug 19th (LVPR).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on May 13th (HBC). Tyttenhanger GP, one on Sept 8th (THk).
- Middx King George VI Res, two on Aug 19th and one on 23rd (PN,ADW). Staines Moor, four on May 13th (AVM). Staines Res, singles on Oct 8th and 17th (CL, AVM).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 26th (JAS).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, singles on Jan 10th and 13th and two on Dec 4th, 15th and 23rd (SJG,DMr,PRn). Swanscombe Marsh, one on May 8th and 13th (MLn,BEW).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 20 on Mar 16th (KJM), singles on Apr 24th and May 12th, three on Sept 12th and two on Oct 7th (BBR). Island Barn Res, one on May 28th (DMH). London Wetland Centre, one on May 13th (RKa,DMk,NPS).

With just short of 30 reports this becomes one of the worst years on record with the incredibly low numbers on the Thames particularly disappointing. Even with the 20 birds at Beddington there were possibly as few as 50 individuals in the London area in 2001. As recently as 1997 a count of 45 was made on the Thames, which puts this year into context. Perhaps the consolation for Grey Plovers is that hard weather tends to bring in the larger numbers.

0493

Lapwing***Vanellus vanellus***

Status: widespread, but decreasing breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

125 pairs were reported during the breeding season, compared to 108 last year. As stated in the 1994 LBR the vagaries of reporting account for yearly fluctuations and it is, at least, encouraging that extensive sites like Rainham Marsh, where there were up to 15 pairs this year, continue to support core populations. However, poor breeding productivity, and the isolation of less extensive sites, where viable populations are unsustainable, is undoubtedly cause for concern and as ever we urge observers to continue to submit all breeding records.

In the following summary, sites with the largest counts (in excess of 250) in each county are given, with month of occurrence in brackets and, where appropriate, the maximum in both winter periods. All Inner London records are given.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Essex | Barking Bay/Marsh, 1380 (Jan) and 291 (Dec). Cornmill Meadows, 310 (Dec). Dagenham Chase, 1200 (Jan) and 800 (Dec). Holyfield Hall Farm, 1000 (Jan) and 300 (Dec). Hornchurch, CP 250 (Jan) and 300 (Dec). Netherhall GP, 373 (Dec). Rainham Marsh, 2500 (Nov). |
| Herts | Amwell GP, 280 (Feb). Batlers Green, Radlett, 600 (Nov). Cheshunt, 678 (Jan). Great Amwell, 306 (Jan). Hatfield Aerodrome, 500 (Dec). Maple Cross, 450 (Dec). Rye Meads SF, 400 (Jan) and 337 (Nov). Theobalds Park, 300 (Feb). Tyttenhanger GP, 500 (Nov). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 315 (Dec). |
| Middx | Harmondsworth, 400 (Dec). Kempton NR, 295 (Dec). Kempton Park, 400 (Feb). King George VI Res, 321 (July), a bird with 'piebald colour on mantle and wings' on July 28th. |
| Bucks | Richings Park, 500 (Feb). Withy Bridge, Iver, 1800 (Feb) and 500 (Nov). Woodlands Park GP, 400 (Jan) and 350 (Nov). |
| Kent | Dartford Marsh, 265 (Dec). Sevenoaks WR, 400 (Feb) and 340 (July and Sept). |
| Surrey | Addington, 250 (Feb and Nov). Hersham GP, 1650 (Feb). QE II Res, 425 (Jan). Walton Res, 1400 (Feb). |
| In Lond | Paddington Green, 50 W on Apr 9th (DTM). Regent's Park, singles on May 13th and June 18th and two W on Dec 25th (ARD). |

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Above: Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*, Alexandra Park, 24 September 2001. (Andrew Gardener)

Left: one of a pair of Nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos* which showed unusually well at Sewardstone in spring 2001. (Phil Vines)



Above: London's first-ever Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* was an extraordinary find at Canary Wharf on 6 October, and exceptional inland in Britain. It lingered until 28 October. (Andrew Middleton)



Above: this Hoopoe *Upupa epops* was found in Osterley Park on 2 September 2001. (Nick Sampford)

Right: Jay *Garrulus glandarius*, Kew Gardens, 12 April 2001. (Peter Gasson)



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0496 Knot *Calidris canutus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, four on Nov 9th (JAS).
 Surrey Beddington SF, eight on Sept 18th (BBR). QE II Res, singles from July 24th to 25th and on Sept 18th (DMH). Walton Res, one on Nov 16th (DMH).
 In Lond Regent's Park, 45 flew SW Oct 6th (ARD).

As is often the case the West London reservoirs dominate, but the Inner London record here is exceptional.

0497 Sanderling***Calidris alba***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, singles on May 12th, Sept 18th, 21st and 23rd (DMn).
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on May 14th (SHM).
 Middx King George VI Res, one on May 26th, two on 28th, 16 on June 2nd, two on July 9th, five from 22nd to 23rd, one from 24th to 25th, two on 28th, one on 29th, one on Aug 10th, two on 17th, four from Sept 9th to 10th, one on 11th and one on 28th (CL,PN,KLP). Ponders End Lake, one on Apr 30th (SC). Staines Res, one on May 9th (KLP).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, five on May 16th (CDRH).
 Surrey QE II Res, one on Feb 24th, three on July 22nd, and singles from Aug 3rd to 4th and on 16th (DMH,PN).

A poor year with records from only seven sites, although the count of 16 is excellent and the highest since 1994.

0501 Little Stint***Calidris minutus***

Status: passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Sept 18th (AMi). Cornmill Meadows, one on Sept 22nd (JPK). Rainham Marsh, one from Aug 19th to 20th (DF,SRPg) and regular from Sept 14th to Nov 4th with maxima of ten on Sept 21st and Oct 2nd, 5th and 9th (mo). William Girling Res, one on Sept 11th (AJG,DTM), and two on Sept 23rd (PJV).
 Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one from June 25th to 26th, one from Aug 6th to 19th and another from Sept 21st to 22nd (HBC).
 Middx Kempton NR, one on Sept 26th and 29th (KLP). King George VI Res, one on Sept 15th, three on 16th, one on 18th, two on 20th, three on 24th, four on 25th and singles on 28th and Oct 2nd (CL,AVM,PN,KLP). Ponders End Lake, one on May 24th (SC et al). Staines Res, one on Oct 4th (KLP).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Sept 12th, one on 14th and four on 26th (JAS).
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on Sept 15th, four on 18th, five on 19th, two from 22nd to 23rd and one from 24th to 28th (BBR). London Wetland Centre, one on June 10th and 12th, one on Sept 14th, two on 17th and one from 18th to 19th (mo). QE II Res, singles on Sept 18th (SJS) and 24th (DMH). Walton Res, one on Oct 20th (DMH).

From mid September on for three weeks usually brings the bulk of autumn juveniles, as was the case this year, with a good showing at Rainham, but north bound adults tend to be between mid May and mid June so the late June bird at Tyttenhanger is a very unusual record.

0502 Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Status: rare but annual passage migrant.

Essex Rainham Marsh, singles on May 27th (SRPg) and Sept 18th (DMn). Wm Girling Res, a juvenile on Sept 8th (PJV et al).

Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on May 6th and 7th (MCh,CSe,CV).

Two records in September are exceptional. The William Girling bird shunned the reservoir in favour of a concrete lined flood relief channel, albeit it with a ready supply of food.

0507 Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Status: rare vagrant.

Essex Rainham Marsh, a juvenile from Sept 14th to 21st (DMn,SRPg,PJV).

Two years on the trot now for Rainham.

0509 Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, most regular in autumn.

Essex Rainham Marsh, regular from Sept 9th to Oct 2nd with up to five on Sept 18th (mo).

Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Aug 1st and 3rd (CH, RBe).

Middx Kempton NR, one on Sept 19th (KLP).

Surrey Beddington SF, two on Sept 19th (BBR). London Wetland Centre, two on Sept 5th (DMk). QE II Res, one on Aug 18th (DMH). Walton Res, one on Aug 22nd (SJS).

A reasonably poor year with the exception of Rainham, which had something of a Calidrid bonanza in September.

0510 Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Bucks Queen Mother Res, a juvenile/first-winter on Sept 24th (JAS).

Rarer than Pectoral Sandpiper in London, this is only the 30th Area record.

0512 Dunlin***Calidris alpina***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

As has become the norm in recent years disappointingly few large counts away from Barking Bay/Marsh area. The main Lower Thames counts are summarised in the table below:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking	1928	1800	1371	1	9	12	455	616
	Rainham	-	-	-	24	49	15	4	56
Kent	Dartford	12	-	-	-	4	12	159	370
	Swanscombe	40	3	5	-	-	-	-	111

Away from the Thames the table below summarises the monthly maxima for sites where at least 10 birds were seen in a day:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Middx	KG VI Res	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	7	2	27
	Staines Res	4	-	-	7	12	1	-	-	-	2
Surrey	Beddington SF	-	1	4	7	4	1	13	-	1	2
	Hersham	41	34	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Island Barn Res	10	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	8	30
	QE II Res	22	28	-	-	-	6	5	1	17	31
	Walton Res	2	7	-	-	-	4	10	1	10	1

There were records from only another 14 sites, the vast majority of which were either Lea Valley or West London, and only two of which produced double figure counts, both associated with the Surrey/Middx wintering birds in West London.

0517 Ruff***Philomachus pugnax***

Status: regular passage migrant, now rare winter visitor.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, two on July 2nd, one on 6th and one on Sept 13th and 17th. Hornchurch CP, six on July 16th. Little Mollands GP, two on Feb 11th. Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 1st and two on 2nd, up to seven from July 14th to 29th, regularly noted from Aug 14th to Oct 13th with six on three dates and then singles on Oct 30th, Nov 15th, 24th and 25th.
- Herts Cheshunt GP, one flew west on Sept 18th. Colney Heath, two on Oct 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on July 16th, Aug 4th, 6th and 15th, Sept 4th, two on 5th, one on Nov 3rd and two on Dec 1st.
- Middx King George VI Res, two from Sept 1st to 6th, one from 7th to 11th and on 18th. Staines Moor, singles on Feb 17th, Mar 30th and May 23rd to 24th. Staines Res, one on Sept 19th.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Apr 20th. Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 7th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Mar 17th, four on Apr 17th and one on 18th, seven on Aug 30th, two from Aug 31st to Sept 1st, one on Sept 4th, two on 6th, one on 22nd and two on Dec 23rd. Hersham GP, singles on Jan 25th and Feb 27th. London Wetland Centre, three on July 4th and one on Dec 24th. QE II Res, one on Dec 7th.

Sadly continuing the downward trend again this year with tiny numbers in both winter periods, an abysmal spring passage (probably just eight birds) and no double figure counts in autumn; only Rainham put on a brave face with the bulk of records.

0518 Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

From the full set of records given below, two features stand out: first, the exceptional numbers found at Horton GP in early winter, and secondly the pronounced and widespread spring passage. March and April are clearly good months to search for this most characterful of waders, as well as for other, more conspicuous migrants.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Mar 5th. Chingford Plain, one on May 5th. Dagenham Chase, one on Feb 11th. Dagenham Corridor, one on Mar 18th. Fairlop Lakes CP, one on May 5th. Hornchurch CP, singles on Feb 7th and Mar 2nd and two on Apr 5th. Rainham Marsh, singles on Jan 16th, Mar 29th, Oct 5th and 31st and Nov 28th. Sawbridgeworth Marsh, one on Feb 20th. Sewardstone Marsh, singles on Feb 1st, and Dec 23rd and 31st. Stubbers OPC, one on Nov 11th. Waterworks NR, five on Dec 22nd.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 5th; two on Feb 25th; in Mar, five on 26th and three on 31st; in Apr, three on 3rd and singles on 6th and 25th; and one on Sept 24th. Broxbourne GP, singles on Jan 28th and Feb 15th. Rye Meads SF, one on Jan 15th, up to two in Feb (on 15th), up to five in Mar (on 24th), up to six in Apr (on 1st), with the last on 21st; in Sept, one on 19th and two on 29th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Nov 11th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, two on Dec 23rd. Brimsdown, singles on Dec 24th and 26th. Kempton NR, singles on Mar 26th, 29th and Apr 7th. Lake Farm (Hayes), one on Oct 14th. Minet Tip, one on Nov 2nd. Rammey Marsh, one on Mar 5th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one on Apr 28th.
- Bucks Horton GP, three on Mar 19th, one on 22nd and two on 25th; singles on Apr 20th and 28th; six on Oct 17th; six on Nov 9th and 19 on 27th; in Dec, 20 on 6th, six on 21st and one on 24th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Jan 19th, two on Dec 27th and one on 29th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 21st. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Feb 11th; 11 on Mar 4th, three on 10th and one on 25th; two on Apr 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Feb 13th, one on 17th and three on 19th; three on Mar 21st; singles on Oct 17th and 28th; one on Nov 18th; one on Dec 2nd, three on 17th and two on 29th. Hersham GP, one on Dec 4th. Holmethorpe SP, one Jan 1st-Feb 28th, two Nov 24th- 25th and one Dec 30th. Horton CP, one Jan 5th-22nd. London Wetland Centre, one intermittently from Sept 22nd to 30th; one on Nov 14th; and one from Dec 15th to 17th. Morden Hall Park, two on Dec 30th. Worcester Park SF, one on Mar 17th.

0519 Common Snipe***Gallinago gallinago***

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce breeder.

Historically, the highest numbers of Snipe in London have occurred during severely cold weather, but in recent mild years good counts are just as likely to have been made during spring or autumn. There was no suggestion of breeding in 2001, though a few birds lingered late in suitable territory. These records are included below, along with higher counts.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, 33 on Jan 28th and 50 on Oct 13th. Dagenham Chase, 29 on Feb 2nd. Hall Marsh, 46 on Jan 30th. Hornchurch CP, 51 on Jan 10th and 42 on Nov 26th. Rainham Marsh, 120 on Oct 5th and 80 on Dec 12th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 100 on Jan 14th; 35 on Feb 8th; 58 on Mar 17th; one on May 1st; 26 on Nov 14th; and 70 on Dec 8th. Rye Meads SF, 36 on Mar 15th; 35 on Apr 1st; singles on May 15th and June 15th; and 84 on Oct 15th.
- Middx Hampton Waterworks, 12 on Apr 7th. Kempton NR, 24 on Sept 29th; 22 on Oct 1st; and 20 on Nov 18th. Stanwell Moor, 26 on Sept 5th and 19 on 13th.
- Bucks Horton GP, 39 on Mar 19th. Old Slade Lake, 55 on Dec 8th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 100 on Dec 29th. Sevenoaks WR, 42 on Sept 30th, 60 on Oct 21st, 25 on Nov 4th and 44 on Dec 25th. Swanscombe Marsh, 42 on Feb 11th and 32 on Oct 14th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, peak monthly counts were 35 in Mar, 38 in Oct, 33 in Nov and 51 in Dec. Hersham GP, 78 on Jan 25th, 38 on Feb 9th, 93 on Mar 23rd and 31 on Nov 4th. London Wetland Centre, 41 on Mar 8th, two on May 19th and 28th, 37 on Aug 11th, 38 on Sept 11th, 44 on Oct 9th, 42 on Nov 29th and 58 on Dec 23rd. Worcester Park SW, 30 on Jan 23rd, 35 on Feb 14th and 40 on Mar 7th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 24th.

0529 Woodcock***Scolopax rusticola***

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding-season reports, sightings of more than one bird at other times of year, and Inner London records are given.

- Essex Copped Hall, three on Nov 5th and 10th and six on Dec 30th. Epping Forest: 1-2 roding at Almshouse Plain, 2-3 roding at Furze Plain, 2-3 roding at Long Running, and four seen at Monks Wood on June 21st. Sewardstone Marsh, seven on Jan 13th and 2-3 on 14th. Waterworks NR, three on Nov 30th.
- Herts Broxbourne Woods, two on June 24th. Rye Meads SF, five on Jan 20th and three on Dec 8th.
- Middx Horsenden Hill, two on Mar 25th. Stanmore Common, at least one roding. Ten Acre Wood, two in Nov and Dec. Trent Park, two on Jan 28th. Vicarage Farm (Enfield), two on Mar 24th.
- Bucks Black Park, two roding.
- Kent Only three records for the year, all of single birds outside the breeding season.
- Surrey Banstead Heath, one roding. Bookham Common, 'a bird present in the breeding season'. Epsom Common, one roding. Limpsfield Chart, one roding.

In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 24th (ARD, DJn). St James's Park, one found stunned on Nov 2nd was taken into care for two hours, then released (RFS).

0532 Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable but increasing numbers.

The late 1990s saw a dramatic change in the status of the Black-tailed Godwit in the London area, with double- or even treble-figure flocks recorded on the lower Thames in winter. Recent years - including 2001 - have not repeated this, however, and in fact the year's biggest flock was of only 12, at the London Wetland Centre on July 9th. Nevertheless, the long-term trend is of rising numbers in our area, reflecting the large population increase of the northern-breeding race *islandica*. On return passage, this godwit can be a notably early migrant, almost as likely to appear in the first half of July as in the second half of August. All records are given.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on July 31st and four on Aug 25th. Rainham Marsh, singles on May 6th and 12th; two on June 28th; singles on July 1st and 3rd, six on July 21st; singles on Oct 28th, Nov 11th and 30th and Dec 23rd, and two on Dec 30th. Wm Girling Res, one on Aug 22nd.
- Herts Maple Lodge NR, one on Aug 3rd. Stockers Farm, one on Aug 1st. Tyttenhanger GP, two on July 22nd.
- Middx Brent Res, one from July 12th-14th. Moorhall Lake, one on Aug 4th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 25th, three on Apr 30th and two on May 8th. Staines Res, three flew SE on July 15th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 22nd-27th, one on Aug 1st and three on Aug 10th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, four flew W on July 7th, one flew E on Aug 13th and one on Dec 23rd. Greenhithe, nine flew E on Aug 8th and three on Dec 22nd. Swanscombe Marsh, two on Dec 15th and three (also at Greenhithe) on 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Apr 2nd and June 29th, then four on July 5th, followed by singles on July 14th, Aug 1st, 23rd and 26th (remaining to Sept 3rd), and finally Sept 19th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 21st, Mar 23rd and May 6th-8th; in July, three on 5th, 12 on 9th and one on 24th-25th; six on Aug 9th. Walton Res, three flew E on Aug 4th.

0534 Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

A really poor year for this classic passage wader, as the meagre set of records shows. Matters were probably not helped by the access restrictions at some reservoirs during the foot-and-mouth outbreak. Most sightings were clustered in the period May 2nd-12th and, typically, autumn records formed a small minority with only two this year.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, one on May 6th and 7th, three on May 12th and 13th and singles on Oct 21st and 28th (DMo,SRPg *et al*). Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 24th (CBk).
- Herts Amwell GP, two flew S on May 8th (GJW). Hilfield Park Res, three on April 22nd (SHM).
- Middx Staines Moor, one on May 11th and 12th (PN) was also seen at Stanwell Moor on the first date.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, three flew NE on May 2nd (DMH). London Wetland Centre, one on May 10th (RKa *et al*).

0538 Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus***

Status: regular passage migrant.

Like the Bar-tailed Godwit, this species is often most obvious in the last week of April and first few days of May: a period this year when observations were hampered by widespread bans on access. The return passage was more respectable, but finished early (as it often does), with the latest record on Aug 20th. Sightings as early in the autumn as June 30th (see Herts) are highly unusual. All records are shown.

- Essex King George V Res, two on Apr 30th and one on July 28th. Rainham Marsh, one on July 18th.
- Herts Amwell GP, two on June 30th and two flying W on July 20th. Hilfield Park Res, two on May 6th and seven on Aug 20th. Ware, one flew S on Aug 4th.
- Middx Bedford Lakes CP, two flew S on July 21st. Brent Res, one on Apr 26th. King George VI Res, one flew W on July 31st and one on Aug 7th. Staines Moor, singles on Apr 25th and 30th and on May 11th and 15th. Staines Res, one on Apr 30th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one flew NE on May 13th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, one flew W on Apr 26th. Dartford Marsh, one on Aug 11th and one flew E on Aug 13th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Aug 4th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one flew E on Apr 24th, one flew N on Apr 29th, one on July 19th and one flew S on Aug 12th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 22nd, May 5th and Aug 12th. Molesey Heath, singles flew NW on Apr 21st and N on 27th, then one flew E on May 8th. QE II Res, one flew S on July 14th and five flew W on July 19th. Walton Res, singles on July 23rd and 29th.

2000 Correction

- Surrey The flock of 17 over Riddlesdown was seen on Aug 14th and not as stated.

0541 Curlew***Numenius arquata***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

On the lower Thames, the Curlew was an erratic visitor in 2001 (perhaps under-recorded), with many more reported at the end of the year than the beginning. Away from the River, there was a typical scatter of sightings throughout the year, with many involving fly-overs, and most at well-watched

localities. At inland sites, this species is one of the few migrants to be expected during the 'doldrums' of mid- to late June; nevertheless, it can be surprisingly tricky to add to your local patch year-list. All records are given.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, singles on May 23rd and Nov 19th, with two on Nov 30th and four on Dec 16th. Grays, one on May 6th. King George V Res, one flew N on Feb 17th. Paynes Lane GP, two on Apr 21st. Rainham Marsh, one on June 22nd, then three singles in Sept, three on Oct 21st and five on 31st; in Dec, two on 2nd, 3rd, 11th and 22nd, one on 23rd and two on 30th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, singles on Sept 15th-16th and 22nd. Hilfield Park Res, singles flew over on Apr 22nd and June 17th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Sept 20th. Rye Meads SF, two on Apr 22nd and singles on June 23rd and Aug 22nd. Tyttenhanger GP, one on June 16th.
- Middx Brent Res, one flew over on Dec 5th. Staines Moor, one on Mar 16th, two on Mar 19th, and singles on Apr 25th and Oct 31st. Staines Res, two on Sept 9th.
- Bucks Horton GP, in May, singles flew S on 8th and SW on 16th. Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 9th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Apr 5th and 24th, five on Sept 12th and one on Sept 18th. Chessington, one heard flying over at 00.45 hrs on Mar 28th. Hersham GP, one on Mar 28th. London Wetland Centre, singles on July 4th and 7th and two on Oct 17th. QE II Res, in Oct, singles flew N on 21st and E on 28th. South Norwood Lake, six flew SSE on Aug 6th. Walton Res, one flew N on Jan 20th and one on Sept 9th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, five on Jan 1st, then singles on July 20th, Sept 18th and Oct 20th and Nov 3rd; 19 on the Thames foreshore on Nov 24th; then singles on Nov 18th, Dec 1st and finally 15 on 15th. Erith Reach, one W on Dec 1st. Lullingstone Lake/Park, five flew over on June 17th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Aug 7th and one on Sept 19th. Swanscombe Marsh, three on Jan 1st, singles on Feb 17th, Mar 10th, May 8th and Dec 15th, then two on Dec 22nd.
- In Lond Regent's Park, two flew E on Mar 20th (ARD, DJn).

0545 Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Status: scarce passage migrant.

A genuine scarcity in London, as the seven or eight records this year exemplify. Winter occurrences, such as the one at Beddington SF on Dec 16th, are less than annual.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, singles on Sept 12th (DF) and Oct 9th (SRPg). Wm Girling Res, two on Sept 5th, 8th and 9th (PJV).
- Bucks Horton GP, two on Apr 28th (JAS).
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Aug 26th and Dec 16th (BBR). London Wetland Centre, three (two adults and a juv) on Sept 24th (RKa, FJM, DMk).

0546 Redshank***Tringa totanus***

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, and scarce breeder.

On the lower Thames, the Redshank population regularly peaks during the first three and last three months of the year. In 2001, winter counts at the main sites were as follows:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking Bay/Marsh	106	136	56	70	114	27
	Beckton	-	-	-	-	-	40
	Creekmouth (Barking)	86	108	-	32	17	40
	Rainham Marsh	20	73	-	50	90	100
Kent	Dartford Marsh	70	-	-	-	15	45
	Erith Reach	79	113	-	-	-	-
	Greenhithe	-	-	-	-	-	56
	Stone Marsh	-	-	-	80	11	-
	Swanscombe Marsh	33	15	10	-	-	25

Details of pairs present in the breeding season, and larger counts not included in the table, are given below. Note that the Redshank often remains paired off and in conspicuous display throughout the breeding months, without going on to produce young. This year, in fact, there were no definite reports of fledged offspring in our area.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, two pairs. Belhus Woods CP, four pairs. Hornchurch CP, three pairs. Rainham Marsh, 45 on Apr 8th; four pairs at Albion Landfill Site.
- Herts Amwell GP, two nests found. Rye House Marsh, three pairs (two nests found).
- Middx Kempton NR, up to 16 in Mar, May and Dec, but did not breed. Staines Moor, 23 on Mar 30th; 8+ pairs displaying on May 1st, but the area dried out in June and no breeding success was reported.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one pair. Swanscombe Marsh, one pair.
- Surrey Hersham GP, a possible family party seen on June 5th. Island Barn Res, 12 on Feb 5th and during Dec. London Wetland Centre, one pair. QE II Res, ten on Feb 24th. Walton Res, 31 on Feb 14th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on July 15th and two on Sept 23rd (ARD, DJn).

0548 Greenshank***Tringa nebularia***

Status: common passage migrant, rare in winter.

Spring migration began with a single at Amwell GP on April 12th, peaked with a flock of nine at Brent Res on May 6th, and ended with one at King George VI Res on May 22nd. The return passage started with singles at three sites on July 1st and lasted until Oct 24th (one at Queen Mother Res). 15 at Rainham Marsh on Aug 15th was the highest count. There were no records in winter or during June this year. Records from the most productive sites are given or summarised below.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, three on July 8th, then 1-2 during July 22nd-29th and one on Aug 20th. Rainham Marsh, four on May 6th and one on May 12th; return passage from July 1st to Oct 17th, with maxima of eight on July 15th, 15 on Aug 15th, 12 on Sept 8th and seven on Oct 15th. Wm Girling Res, recorded

during Aug 20th to Oct 5th, with maxima of four on Aug 23rd and 30th and on Oct 5th. Also recorded at Barking Bay/Marsh, Belhus Woods CP, Dagenham Chase, Fishers Green, Hornchurch CP, King George V Res and Sewardstone Marsh.

- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Apr 12th and May 6th, and then on four dates in Aug. Park Street GP, 12 on Aug 22nd. Rye Meads SF, four on July 28th, up to three during Aug and singles from Sept 8th-13th and 18th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 13th, three on Apr 17th, one on Aug 15th and three on Sept 4th. Also recorded at Coopers Green GP, Stanstead Abbots GP and Stockers Farm.
- Middx Brent Res, nine flew E on May 6th; recorded during Aug 10th-25th, with maximum of five on 19th. Kempton NR, present Aug 13th to Sept 14th, with maximum of four on Aug 22nd. King George VI Res, three on May 20th; singles on three dates in July, then more regularly in Aug, with peaks of 13 on 19th and 11 on 18th; one from Sept 7th-8th. Staines Moor, present in May during 4th-22nd, with maximum of three on first date. Staines Res, three on May 12th and one on July 15th. Stanwell Moor, singles on May 3rd-4th and 15th, with two on 20th; recorded Aug 12th-24th, with maximum of nine on 19th, and then a late single on Oct 15th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on July 29th, Sept 9th and from Oct 19th-24th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, in July, singles on 7th and 14th, then records on six Aug dates, with maximum of ten on 27th; in Sept, two on 2nd and 9th and one from 14th-15th. Sevenoaks WR, two on May 7th and 12th and one on Sept 2nd. Singles also reported from Chipstead Lake and the Thames Barrier.
- Surrey Beddington SF, undated monthly maxima of two in Apr, one in July, ten in Aug and 13 in Sept. London Wetland Centre, two on Apr 24th and one on 27th, then singles on May 9th and 15th; in Aug, singles on 19th and 21st, with two on 18th and five on 22nd. QE II Res, in July, one on 4th and 16th, three on Aug 15th, then singles on Sept 2nd, 7th, 14th and 18th. Also recorded at Hersham GP, Island Barn Res, South Norwood CP and Walton Res.
- In Lond Regent's Park, three on Sept 23rd (ARD,DJn).

0553 Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant, commonest in autumn.

The Green Sandpiper can be found in muddy wetland habitats almost throughout the year, while concrete- or brick-banked reservoirs often prove popular with wintering birds. Northbound migrants or winter lingerers are frequently to be seen in April, but this is a scarce species in May: 2001 saw only seven records of singles during the month.

This year, birds were widespread during the winter months, with records from a total of 45 sites during Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec. By comparison, a total of 49 sites held birds during June-Oct. As usual, 'autumn' passage began very early, with one at Hall Marsh on June 6th. The peak count came from the favoured site of Rainham Marsh, where there was an excellent total of 42 on July 27th. None were reported from Inner London.

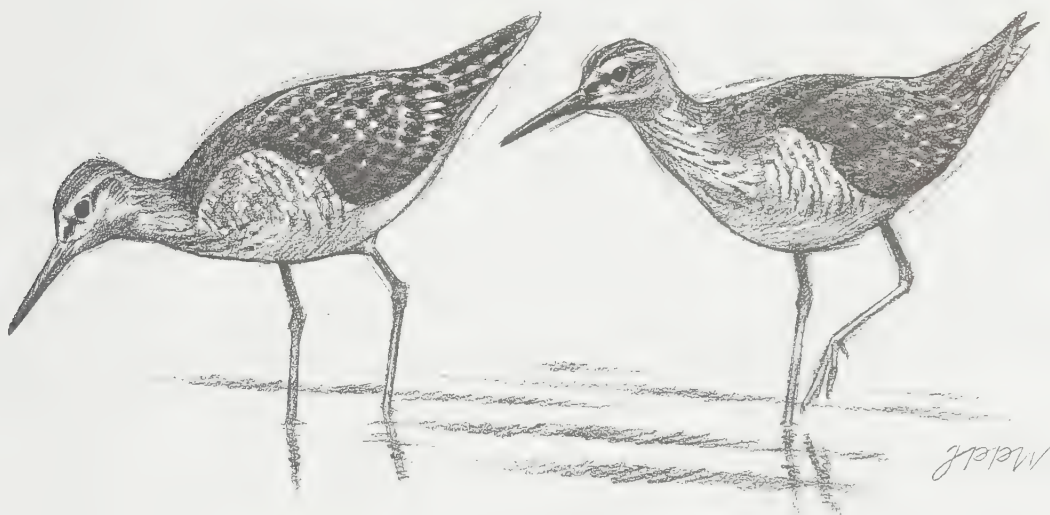
During the main months, the maximum counts from the most productive sites were as follows:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Cornmill Meadows	-	-	-	-	8	9	3	-	-	-
	Rainham Marsh	2	-	-	9	42	25	20	10	3	4
	Wm Girling Res	2	1	-	-	2	8	10	9	8	1
Herts	Rye Meads SF	4	3	2	2	1	8	8	5	6	6
	Tyttenhanger GP	3	2	-	5	9	14	8	6	5	6
Surrey	Beddington SF	7	11	12	8	28	28	26	22	12	6
	Island Barn Res	4	1	-	-	5	5	4	6	7	5

0554

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.



A favourite with wader fans, this elegant species is nearly always more numerous in autumn than spring, and 2001 was no exception. Five singles in April and May were led by a very early one on Apr 12th at Tyttenhanger GP; return passage began with a single at Hornchurch CP on July 6th and ended with one at Hall Marsh on Sept 21st. The small muddy pools at Stanwell Moor attracted a fine series during the autumn. All records are listed.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one from July 22nd-25th (RPe *et al*). Fishers Green, one on Aug 24th-25th (TS *et al*). Hall Marsh, singles on Aug 27th (MDe) and Sept 21st (ADW). Hornchurch CP, one on July 6th (LH). Rainham Marsh, one on July 22nd, two on 27th and one on 28th; three on Aug 12th and 14th, then 1-2 present on eight dates to 31st, with three on 23rd; one on Sept 2nd-6th (mo).
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on May 13th (BR) and 17th (AGr). Rye Meads SF, one from Aug 21st-22nd (RMRG). Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Apr 12th and from Aug 22nd-30th (HBC).
- Middx Kempton NR, one on Aug 21st (KLP). Stanwell Moor, three from July 28th-31st, with two to Aug 3rd (PN *et al*), one on Aug 10th (CL) and six from Aug 19th-20th (PN, KLP).

Surrey Beddington SF, singles from Apr 24th-27th, July 13th-14th, Aug 21st and Sept 18th-22nd (BBR). London Wetland Centre, one on July 25th (JPPW), two on July 28th (mo), three on Aug 20th (MJG, GLH) and one on Aug 22nd (NPS). Wimbledon Common, one on May 10th (DHne).

0556

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

The Common Sandpiper is one of the few wader species that seem to prefer concrete banks to muddy margins; at any rate, the peak London counts often come from the larger reservoirs, rather than our marshland sanctuaries.

This year, the spring migration peaked with eight at the London Wetland Centre on May 13th and finished with one at the same site on May 29th. The first returning birds were two at Chipstead Lake as early as June 13th and the highest autumn count came from Wm Girling Res, with 31 on Aug 27th. Winter records were widespread, with reports from 16 localities during the months of Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec; five at Dartford Marsh on Dec 15th and six at Banbury Res on Nov 4th were the highest counts.

Passage maxima at the most favoured sites were as follows:

		Apr	May	July	Aug	Sept
Essex	Beckton SW	1	2	4	10	-
	Rainham Marsh	1	4	4	11	10
	Walthamstow Res	3	4	18	12	3
	Wm Girling Res	-	-	1	31	10
Herts	Amwell GP	3	2	9	2	3
	Tyttenhanger GP	-	-	5	8	6
Middx	Brent Res	2	5	19	13	4
	King George VI Res	-	-	27	15	10
	Staines Res	1	3	8	8	1
Bucks	Queen Mother Res	-	2	14	16	8
Surrey	Beddington SF	2	6	16	10	6
	London Wetland Centre	2	8	2	1	1
	QE II Res	-	-	10	10	4

0561

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Few records came from the lower Thames this year, although there was an exceptional total of 23 at the top locality, Swanscombe Marsh, on Mar 3rd. Elsewhere, there was a typical (if thin) scattering of reports in spring from Apr 28th to May 17th. The first returning adult appeared on July 21st, and passage lasted until Aug 29th: the last record was of ten at King George VI Res, a good count at an inland site.

Essex Grays, six on May 6th. King George V Res, one on May 11th. Rainham Marsh, one on Jan 13th. Walthamstow Res, one on May 12th.

Herts Amwell GP, singles on Apr 28th, May 13th and May 17th.

- Middx Brent Res, four on May 13th. King George VI Res, singles on July 21st and 23rd, two on 30th and one on 31st; singles on Aug 7th, 18th, 22nd and 25th, then finally a party of ten (an adult and nine juveniles) on Aug 29th. Staines Moor, singles on May 6th and 10th. Staines Res, two on May 7th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one from July 26th-27th.
- Surrey QE II Res, three on July 23rd and one on 29th, then singles on Aug 9th, 17th and 27th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Aug 3rd. Swanscombe Marsh, ten on Jan 1st, 23 on Mar 4th, ten on Mar 10th and five on Dec 22nd.

0564 Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Status: rare passage migrant.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a juvenile on Sept 3rd and 4th (JAS *et al*).

The 22nd record for London since 1900. The west of our area has had the lion's share of records in recent years.

0565 Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*
Status: rare passage migrant.

- Essex Banbury Res, a first-winter from Oct 12th-17th (CBk *et al*).
- Middx King George VI Res, a juvenile/first-winter from Oct 9th-16th (KLP *et al*).
- Surrey Walton Res, a first-winter on Oct 13th (DMH, SJS *et al*).

Our first records since 1999 gave many observers the chance to enjoy this beautiful species. The long stays of the birds at King George VI and Banbury reservoirs were especially noteworthy.

0567 Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Status: regular, but scarce, autumn migrant; rare in spring and summer

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two dark-phase adults, one from 06.55-07.20 and the second from 09.17-09.25 on Aug 19th (JAS).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a dark-phase juvenile on Sept 18th (PAy). Island Barn Res, two pale-phase adults flew north at 17.22-17.24 on May 9th (DMH).

Skua sp. *Stercorarius sp.*

- Essex Copped Hall, one on Sept 18th (AJG).
- Herts Broxbourne GP, a juvenile flew W on Oct 14th (BR).

0575 Mediterranean Gull***Larus melanocephalus***

Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant

Numbers appeared to be lower for the first three months compared to previous years but were about average towards the end of the year, see table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	4	6	1	0	1	10	4	4	6	12	13

Approximate counts of individual birds are shown for each site grouped into Jan-June and July-Dec.

- Essex Beckton SW (1:0). Chingford Plain (1:0). Coppermill FB (1:0). Holyfield Hall Farm (1:0). King George V Res (1:2). Nazeing GP (0:1). Rainham Marsh (2:1). Wm Girling Res (1:2).
- Herts Amwell GP (1:2). Hilfield Park Res (1:2). Rye Meads SF (0:1). Tyttenhanger GP (0:2).
- Middx Brent Res (0:2). Broadwater Lake (1:0). East India Dock Basin (0:1). Enfield Lock (1:1). Grovelands Park (0:1). Staines Moor (1:0). Stanwell Moor (1:0).
- Bucks Horton Fields/ Queen Mother Res (0:1).
- Kent Dartford Marsh (1:2). Littlebrook PS (0:1). R. Thames, Greenwich (0:1). Ruxley GP (0:1).
- Surrey Beddington SF (4:15). Island Barn/QEII/Walton Res (1:9). South Norwood Lake (1:0).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 20th and 22nd (ARD,DJn).

0578 Little Gull***Larus minutus***

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter

A very poor year with about 75 seen, less than half of the average number over the last decade.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Oct 23rd. King George V Res/Wm Girling Res, one on Jan 6th, up to three juveniles in Aug and Sept. Nazeing GP, one roosting irregularly between Jan 1st and Mar 20th. Rainham Marsh, two in Oct. Walthamstow Res, singles in May and Sept.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Feb 19th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Mar 24th, three on Apr 23rd, singles on May 12th and Sept 24th, five on Oct 13th. Stanstead Abbots GP, the Nazeing bird on Jan 13th and Mar 20th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Sept 16th. King George VI Res, two in Jan, up to five in Aug, up to three in Sept and singles in Nov and Dec. Ponders End Lake, one on May 12th. R. Thames at Isle of Dogs, one in Jan. Staines Moor, one from May 18th to 24th. Staines Res, one in Jan, one on Apr 25th, two in May, one in Aug, up to four in Sept and one in Nov.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Feb 9th and six in late Aug.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, singles on Jan 10th and Sept 4th. R. Thames, Greenwich, one on Dec 24th. Sevenoaks WR, one on July 7th. Stone Lake, one on Jan 9th. Swanscombe Marsh, singles in Feb, Mar and May.

Surrey Hersham GP, one on Mar 31st. Island Barn Res, up to three in Jan and Apr. London Wetland Centre, singles in Mar, July and Sept. QE II Res, singles in Jan and Sept. Richmond Park, one on Nov 25th. Surbiton, one on July 9th.

0582 Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder.

The peak count was an impressive 20,000+ at Queen Mother Res, the highest count in London for several years. The small breeding colony at Staines Res remained stable with 13 pairs.

Highest site counts (of 2,000 or more) are given along with details of aberrant birds and breeding records.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 10,700 on Jan 7th and 4,965 on Dec 16th. Nazeing GP, 6,000 on Dec 22nd. Albino types were reported from: Cornmill Meadows on Aug 1st and Fishers Green/Holyfield Hall Farm on Feb 5th and 7th.

Herts The highest sector count was 1,500 at Rye Meads SF on Sept 4th.

Middx Hampton, 3,200 flew WSW to roost on Dec 26th. Staines Res, 13 pairs nested on rafts.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, 20,000+ on Jan 27th. Thorney Country Park, pair nesting on raft in May but not seen in June.

Kent Thames Barrier Area, 4,000+ on Dec 9th. An albino type with black wing tips was seen at Dartford Marsh/Erith Reach on Jan 13th, Nov 18th and Dec 21st.

Surrey Beddington SF, 7,920 in Nov and 4,180 in Feb. London Wetland Centre, c8,000 flew SSW to roost on Dec 7th. QE II Res, 3,000 roosted on July 23rd and a partial albino on Jan 16th. R. Thames, between Barnes/Putney bridges, c3,500 on Dec 16th.

In Lond The highest sector count was 998 on R. Thames at Battersea on Jan 14th.

0589 Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Status: rare visitor

Essex King George V Res, near adult on Jan 25th flew to Wm Girling Res (PJV).

Middx Isle of Dogs, the regular returning bird present intermittently from Jan 1st until Mar 21st and again from Aug 11th into 2002 (SHu, RKa, HVa).

Kent Greenwich Park, adult on Aug 7th. Thames Barrier Area, adult on Sept 2nd. Woolwich, adult intermittently until Mar 11th on grass in front of the Royal Military Academy. (all same as Middx bird, above).

Apart from the regular Thames-side bird there was one new bird this year, the 18th record for London.

0590 Common Gull***Larus canus***

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant

Highest site counts (over 100) are given below.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 1,164 on Jan 7th. Hainault Forest, 181 on Feb 11th. Nazeing GP, c1,000 on Dec 22nd. Risebridge GC, c800 on Jan 5th. Roding Valley Meadows, 885 on Feb 11th. Walthamstow Res, 251 on Jan 14th. Wanstead Flats, 490 on Feb 11th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 450 on Feb 19th. Brookmans Park, 200 on Mar 14th. Ellern Mede Farm, c450 on Feb 22nd.
- Middx Horsenden Hill, 86 on Mar 17th was the highest sector count.
- Bucks Withy Bridge, Iver, 127 on Sept 14th.
- Kent Danson Park, c200 on Dec 30th. Hall Place Gardens, 194 on Mar 3rd. Thames Barrier Area, 175+ on Dec 9th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 187 in Dec. London Wetland Centre, 117 on Mar 30th. QE II Res, 615 roosted on Feb 14th. Walton Res, 380 roosted on Feb 3rd. Wimbledon Common, 150 on Dec 11th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 40 on Dec 11th. Surrey Docks, 35 on Dec 9th.

0591 Lesser Black-backed Gull***Larus fuscus***

Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; increasing breeder.

The breeding population this year was 144-150 pairs, an increase of about 50% on 2000. In addition to the expanding colony at Beckton SW, there was a big increase in Inner London. All breeding records and highest site counts (over 200) are given below.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 524 on Oct 7th. Beckton SW, 109 pairs bred. Nazeing GP, 1,172 on Oct 18th. Rainham Marsh, 200 in Apr, May and Dec. Walthamstow Res, 10 pairs bred and produced 17 juveniles. Wm Girling Res, 200 on Aug 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 370 on Oct 15th. Hilfield Park Res, 694 on Sept 9th.
- Middx Alperton, four nests. Brent Res, 62 on June 24th was the highest sector count, one pair bred. Staples Corner, 17 juveniles fledged.
- Bucks Withy Bridge, Iver, 30 on Jan 17th was the highest sector count.
- Kent Thames Barrier Area, 54 on Dec 9th was the highest sector count.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 935 in Dec. Island Barn Res, 700 on Sept 28th. QE II Res, 294 roosted on Oct 13th.
- In Lond Berkeley Square, one pair raised two young. Camden Town, one pair probably bred. Cannon St. Station, two nests. Covent Garden, 3-6 pairs possibly breeding. Fisherton Street Estate, NW8, pair during breeding season. Holborn, WC2, one nest. Regent's Park, bred. University College WC1, one pair bred. Weymouth Mews W1, one pair bred. Whitehall Place SW1, one pair nested.

0592 Herring Gull***Larus argentatus***

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

The breeding population was 57-61 pairs, down from 93 in 2000 but no data received from Billingsgate where c40 pairs bred last year. All breeding records and highest site counts (over 100) are given below.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 131 on Jan 7th. Beckton SW, 36 pairs nested. Coppermill FB, 200 on Nov 4th. Rainham Marsh, 300 in Apr. Walthamstow Res, 186 on Jan 14th, one pair nested.
- Herts Amwell GP, 450 on Jan 3rd.
- Middx Staples Corner, one pair bred.
- Bucks Withy Bridge, Iver, 400 on Jan 17th.
- Kent Thames Barrier Area, 100 on Sept 16th, two pairs bred.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 1,625 in Dec. Island Barn Res, 1029 roosted on Oct 27th. London Wetland Centre, 206 over on Nov 11th. Morden Hall Park, 150 over on Apr 22nd. QE II Res, 590 roosted on Jan 21st. South Norwood Lake, 650+ over on Nov 11th.
- In Lond Adamson Road NW3, three pairs bred. Fisherton Street Estate NW8, three pairs bred. Holborn WC2, one nest. Paddington Green W2, 103 on Nov 11th. Paddington Station, 8-10 nests. Regent's Park, 2-4 pairs bred.

At least three sites recorded a large passage on Nov 11th.

0592.01 Caspian Gull***Larus cachinnans***

Status: rare, but likely to be an increasingly regular visitor.

Although the precise taxonomic status of 'Caspian Gull' remains unclear, and indeed the subject of some controversy, it seems sensible to publish all the records that we are aware of as 'showing characters of Caspian Gull', rather than ignore them. Their publication here does not imply acceptance either by the LNHS Records Committee. All known records are given.

- Essex Banbury Res, adult on Jan 3rd. Beckton SW, one on Jan 7th. Creekmouth, adult on Jan 7th. King George V Dock/Royal Docks, adult on several dates in Jan and again in Nov and Dec. Nazeing GP, adult on Oct 12th and 18th and 3rd-W on Oct 18th. North Woolwich, adult on Jan 13th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, 1st-W on Sept 4th. Withy Bridge, Iver, adult on Jan 13th. Wraysbury GP, adult on Mar 4th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two adults in Jan and one in Feb, adult from Sept to Dec with two adults, 1st-W and 4th-W in Nov and 1st-W and 2nd-W in Dec. Island Barn Res, adult roosted on several dates in Oct and on Dec 3rd. London Wetland Centre, adult from Jan to Apr 7th, 2nd-W in Mar, adult again in Nov and Dec and 1st-W, 2nd-W and 3rd-W in Dec. R.Thames, Wandsworth, adult on Jan 14th. St Pauls School PF, one on Sept 14th. Thorpe Water Park, two on Jan 27th. Walton Res, 1st-W on Dec 21st.

With increasing observer confidence, more gulls of this form are now being identified in London.

0592.02 Yellow-legged Gull***Larus michahellis***

Status: regular migrant and winter visitor, commonest in the autumn, especially along the Thames.

All records are given but are summarised at some sites.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, three on Jan 7th, nine in July and Oct, two in Nov and one in Dec. Beckton SW, singles in Jan and May and two in July. Banbury Res, adult on Jan 3rd. Creekmouth, singles in Jan and Dec. Gallions Reach, one in Mar and two in Aug. King George V Res, up to three in Dec. Nazeing GP, one in Jan and up to three in Oct and Dec. North Woolwich, one in Dec. Purfleet Chalk Pits, one in Dec. Rainham GP, one in Dec. Rainham Marsh, up to 11 in Jan, 1-2 in Feb and Apr, 29 in July, one in Aug, two in Sept, three in Oct, four in Nov and one in Dec. Thames Barrier, two in Jan and one in July. Walthamstow Res, singles in Jan and Nov. Wanstead Flats, one in Jan. Wm Girling Res, one on Jan 14th and 20 on Dec 21st.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles in Jan and Feb, two in Oct and one in Nov. Hilfield Park Res, three on Jan 7th and singles in five other months.
- Middx Brent Res, one intermittently between Jan and June and another on Dec 22nd. Broadwater Lake, one on Dec 24th. East India Dock Basin, up to three in July and two in Aug. Hampton Waterworks, one on Aug 16th. Isle of Dogs, singles in June and Sept. King George VI Res, monthly maxima of seven in June, four in July and five in Aug. Middlesex Filter Beds, one on Sept 9th. Queen Mary Res, one on Jan 19th and two on July 27th. Staines Res, three in Apr, singles in May and July, up to 25 in Aug and four in Sept.
- Bucks Langley, one on Mar 26th. Queen Mother Res, singles in Jan and Mar, up to 27 in June and 64 in July. Withy Bridge, Iver, one on Jan 2nd. Wraysbury GP, singles in Jan, Mar, Oct and Dec.
- Kent Crossness, two in July and Aug. Danson Park, one on Feb 25th. Dartford Marsh, monthly maxima of eight in June, 21 in July, 25 in Aug, 21 in Sept, 13 in Oct and six in Nov. Erith Reach, one on Dec 21st. Greenhithe, up to four in Aug. Stone Marsh, five on Aug 16th. Swanscombe Marsh, singles in Feb and May, up to 45 in Aug and 26 in Oct. Thames Barrier Area, 1-2 between June and Aug, three on Sept 21st and one on Dec 9th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, seen in small numbers at both ends of year with peaks of five in Oct and eight in Nov. Island Barn Res, up to two roosted in Jan and Feb, three in Aug and Nov and four in Dec. London Wetland Centre, 1-2 between Jan and May, in July, and from Sept to Nov with up to three in Dec. QE II Res, up to five roosted in Jan, two in Feb, singles in July and Aug and five in Dec. R.Thames, Wandsworth, one in Feb, three in July, one in Aug and two in Sept. Reigate Priory, one on Jan 14th, St Pauls School PF, 10 in Sept and 19 in Oct. Thorpe Water Park, two in Dec. Walton Res, up to three in Jan and singles in Feb, Aug, Nov and Dec.
- In Lond Albert Embankment, singles in Jan and Feb. Kensington Gardens, singles in Sept and Dec. Regent's Park, singles in Feb and June. St James's Park, one on Jan 12th. Tate Modern, one on Nov 1st.

0598 Iceland Gull***Larus glaucoides***

Status: scarce late winter and early spring visitor.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, 1st or 2nd-W on Apr 8th (SRPg *et al*).
 Middx Isle of Dogs, 1st-W on R. Thames on Mar 20th (SHu).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Feb 2nd (CDRH), adult on Mar 22nd (CDRH) and adult on Dec 31st into 2002 (AVM).
 Surrey Beddington SF, adult on Dec 26th and 30th (JPA). QE II Res, 2nd-W on Jan 5th and 6th was the bird from 2000 (DMH).

Probably six different birds seen this year assuming the adult in December at Beddington was the same one roosting at Queen Mother Res.

Kumlien's Gull***Larus g. kumlieni***

- Bucks Langley, adult on North Park from 16.50 - 17.50 before flying to Queen Mother Res where it was seen from 18.24 - 18.34 (CDRH).

The second record of this race to be seen in the London Area.

0599 Glaucous Gull***Larus hyperboreus***

Status: scarce winter visitor; more regular in cold weather.

- Essex Rainham Marsh, 1st-W from 2000 seen on Jan 6th and 20th and Feb 2nd and 10th (mo).
 Surrey Beddington SF, 1st-W on Jan 26th, Feb 1st, 9th, 18th and 19th (BBR). QE II Res, 1st-W bird from 2000 roosting on Jan 6th and 7th (DMH,SJS), presumed same as the Beddington bird.

After an impressive 11 birds last year, no new birds were seen this year with just the two first-winter birds remaining in Essex and Surrey from 2000.

0600 Great Black-backed Gull***Larus marinus***

Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers; less common at other seasons.

All site peak counts of 20 or more birds are given below along with all Inner London records.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 70 on Jan 7th. Walthamstow Res, 21 on Jan 14th. Wanstead Flats, 41 on Oct 7th. Weald Park, 30 on Jan 1st.
 Herts Amwell GP, 220 on Jan 3rd.
 Middx Broadwater Lake, 55 on Dec 24th.
 Bucks Colnbrook, 116 at the landfill on Jan 6th. Queen Mother Res, 100+ on Dec 31st. Withy Bridge, Iver, 50 on Jan 17th.
 Kent Dartford Marsh, 27 on Sept 16th. Thames Barrier Area, 22 in Sept.
 Surrey Beddington SF, c50 on Dec 29th. London Wetland Centre, 20 on June 12th. QE II Res, 49 on Dec 31st. Walton Res, 116 on Jan 13th.

In Lond Albert Embankment, one on July 21st. Battersea Bridge, one on Jan 14th. Kensington Gardens, one on Feb 16th. Lambeth Bridge, singles in Mar and Sept. Paddington Green W2, singles on Mar 9th and 11th, three on Oct 28th and one on Nov 11th. Regent's Park, one on Apr 3rd. St Thomas's Hospital, one on Nov 2nd. Tate Modern, up to four between Sept and Nov. Victoria Park, two in June.

0602 Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

All records are given below, all immatures unless stated otherwise.

Herts Amwell GP, adult on Mar 31st. Stocker's Lake, adult on Feb 24th.
 Middx King George VI Res, one S on Aug 18th. R. Thames, Isle of Dogs, two on Nov 8th.
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, two adults on May 17th.
 Kent Erith Reach, one on Mar 3rd.
 Surrey Beddington SF, three adults on Feb 22nd and 23rd, also 1st-W on latter date. Hersham GP, one on Feb 23rd. Island Barn Res, adult on Feb 11th and two adults on Apr 19th. London Wetland Centre, adult on Nov 8th. QE II Res, three adults on Feb 23rd and one adult on Nov 10th.

Probably 18 different birds seen compared to 45 in 2000.

0611 Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in flocks.

A disappointing spring passage with just three records, the first being at Beddington SF on Apr 23rd. There were three July records but passage began well in August and by late September large movements were being noted. The final birds seen were flying west past Dartford Marsh on Oct 6th. The year ended on 39 records of 220 birds, a higher than average showing.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, five on Sept 18th and three on 22nd (AMi). King George V Res, one on Aug 15th (SC). Rainham Marsh, two on Aug 30th (DF), eight on Sept 24th (PSt) and seven on 29th (SRPg)
 Middx Brent Res, two on Aug 4th (ISE,ASMS,AGV). East India Dock Basin, two on Aug 26th (GJ). R. Thames, Isle of Dogs, four on Aug 25th (SHu).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Aug 19th, two on 21st, three on 28th, and eight on 29th; one on Sept 2nd, two on 3rd and two on 26th (JAS)
 Kent Dartford Marsh, one on May 30th, five on Aug 18th, ten on Sept 18th, one on Sept 21st and 15 on Oct 6th (DMr). Thames Barrier, one on Aug 26th (DTM)
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 23rd, seven on Apr 28th, three on Aug 19th, two on Aug 29th and nine on Sept 29th (BBR). Island Barn Res and Walton Res, one on July 4th (DMH). London Wetland Centre, one on July 4th (mo), 20 on Sept 17th (ASa,JGo) and 55 on Sept 29th (DMk,MGi,FJM). QE II Res and Walton Res, two on Aug 4th, one on 5th and two on 10th; three on Sept 16th, nine on 29th and 16 on 30th (DMH).

- 0614 Roseate Tern** ***Sterna dougallii***
 Status: very rare migrant
- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Sept 18th (AMi)
- Only the 16th London record of what remains a rare bird inland. This was the first since the three day stayer at West Thurrock in 1988.
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- 0615 Common Tern** ***Sterna hirundo***
 Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasing as a breeding species.
- Breeding numbers continue to rise with a record year of 332 pairs raising a minimum of 144 young. This shows a slight increase from the 306 pairs in 2000 (239 in 1999). All breeding records are given below (number of pairs in brackets), followed by an account of passage in spring and autumn.
- Essex Hall Marsh (1). Holyfield Hall Farm (2). Hornchurch (2). Rainham (1 pair present but breeding not proven). Royal Docks (4). Walthamstow Res (32).
- Herts Amwell GP (9). Cheshunt GP (9). Hilfield Park Res (5). Rye Meads SF (100). Stocker's Lake (8).
- Middx Bedford Lakes CP (11). Brent Res (42). East India Dock Basin (10). Ponders End Lake (11). Staines Res (61).
- Bucks Thorney Country Park (12).
- Surrey QE II Res (10).
- In Lond Canada Water, SE16 (2). Non-breeding birds were seen at 12 other sites: Grand Union Canal, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Limehouse, Little Venice, Paddington Green, Regent's Canal, R. Thames at Battersea, Tower of London and Victoria Park.
-
- Spring** Passage began with one on Apr 1st at Island Barn Res. It was not until late April that large numbers started arriving with c100 at Staines Res on Apr 29th and 40 at Hilfield Park Res on Apr 30th. Staines Res again produced the highest counts in May with 134 on 6th. Other good spring counts included 45 at Rainham Marsh on May 4th and 63 at Brent Res on May 28th.
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- Autumn** Birds began moving through the area at the end of July with 56 on 14th and 50 on 24th at Barking Bay/Marsh. Also in July, 56 were seen at King George VI Res on 22nd. The largest counts came in Aug: 149 at Dartford on 25th and an impressive 194 at Greenhithe on 18th. Other notable counts were 62 at King George VI on Aug 19th and 54 at Dartford Marsh on Sept 18th. The last bird of the year was at Walthamstow Res on Oct 13th.

0616 Arctic Tern***Sterna paradisaea***

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, occasionally in large flocks.

A good year with 46 records of c144 birds. Spring passage began with two at Beddington SF on Apr 14th. These were followed by a further 11 reports in April and 13 reports in May, the largest group being 16 at Staines Res on May 12th. Autumn produced smaller numbers with 18 reports between Aug and Oct the last being two at Walton Res from Oct 10th to 17th.

- Essex Beckton SW, two on Apr 24th and one on Aug 19th (PD). King George V Res, one on Sept 21st (PJV). Rainham Marsh, two on May 4th, three on Aug 25th and one on Sept 15th (HVa).
- Herts Amwell GP, 11 on May 13th (GJW). Hilfield Park Res, singles on Apr 18th and 29th and two on Apr 30th (HBC)
- Middx Brent Res, three on Apr 28th (ASMS) and eight on May 12th (AGV). East India Dock basin, one on May 14th, three on Aug 3rd and two on 18th (GJ). King George VI Res, one on Aug 21st (PN,KLP,ADW). R. Thames at Isle of Dogs, one on Aug 25th (SHu). Staines Res, seven on May 1st, 16 on 12th, and eight on 22nd, one on Sept 8th, two on 19th and one on 24th (mo).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Aug 12th and one on Sept 9th (JAS)
- Kent Crossness, two on May 13th (possibly part of Tripcock group) (DTM) and one on Oct 10th (ACr). Dartford Marsh, one on Aug 27th (DMr). Tripcock Point, four on May 13th (DTM)
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Apr 14th and ten on 24th; four on Sept 18th and one on 19th (BBR). Island Barn Res, four on Apr 19th, seven on 20th with two remaining until 23rd, four on 27th and two on 29th; and three on May 4th (DMH,SJS). London Wetland Centre, one on May 10th (NP), one on 13th (DMk,AHat), seven on 15th and one on 20th (NPS). R. Thames at Wandsworth, two on Aug 25th (RJA). Walton Res, one on Oct 9th and two from 10th to 17th (DMH,SJS).

0624 Little Tern***Sterna albifrons***

Status: uncommon, but annual, passage migrant

A typical number of records. The majority of birds occurred in May and there were just two autumn birds, the last of which was seen amongst a group of Black Terns, at QE II Res, on the late date of Oct 13th.

- Bucks Horton GP, one on May 17th (JAS)
- Essex King George V Res, one on Apr 24th (AMi) and one on May 9th (SC).
- Middx East India Dock basin, one on July 13th (GJ). Staines Res, one on Apr 28th (AVM,PN,KLP), one on May 12th (PGa,PN) and one on May 16th.
- Kent Thamesmead (also reached Essex border), one on May 13th (DTM)
- Surrey QE II Res and Walton Res, three on Aug 9th and one on Oct 13th (DMH,SJS)

2000 Additional record

- Middx Staines Res, one on May 7th (PN).

0627 Black Tern*Chlidonias niger*

Status: regular, often common, spring and autumn passage migrant, occasional in summer.



A good year with around 930 birds being recorded from 27 sites (compared with 330 birds in 1999 and 832 birds in 1998). As usual autumn records outnumbered spring ones by nearly 4:1 and the West London reservoirs produced the largest number of records. The highest count was 85 at King George VI Res on Aug 23rd.

The first of the year was at Brent Res on **APRIL** 22nd followed by two flying west past the Tate Modern on 23rd, two at Island Barn Res on 25th and two at Staines Res on 30th. **MAY** saw large numbers arriving, the highest count being 70 at Staines on 7th. Staines Res produced birds on at least 12 separate days and eight other sites recorded birds during the month. **JULY** saw five sightings, all at west London reservoirs but autumn passage began strongly in **AUGUST** with over 40 sightings from 17 sites. Large groups were seen between 19th and 26th with 85 at King George VI Res, 30 at Rainham, 41 at Crossness, 59 at Littlebrook PS, 30 at Staines Res and 18 at East India Dock. Numbers then dropped in **SEPTEMBER** and **OCTOBER** with 18 and 23 reports respectively from fifteen sites. The highest counts during these two months were: 14 at Barking on Sept 2nd, 17 at London Wetland Centre on Oct 13th, and 19 at QE II Res on Oct 13th. The year ended with some very late birds being seen: at King George VI Res, two from Oct 27-30th with one remaining until **NOV** 4th; the last bird of the year was seen at QE II Res on Nov 4th, having been intermittently present at Walton Res since Oct 27th.

In Lond Tate Modern, two on Apr 23rd (RBd)

0634 Guillemot*Chlidonias leucopterus*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor, subject to occasional cold weather influxes.

In Lond Surrey Docks, one on May 22nd. (DTM).

An unusual spring record which allowed close approach. Guillemots remain a scarce bird in London since the 90+ birds seen in 1986.

0665 Feral Rock Dove***Columbia livia***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

2001 saw a welcome increase in information about this, perhaps our least-loved bird, especially from the Essex and Inner London sectors. Larger counts and breeding records (pairs or territories in brackets) are given below. Aptly, the peak count of 2000+ came from Trafalgar Square. Most gruesome sighting of the year, though, came from St James's Park, where on Nov 10th one was watched being drowned by a captive White Pelican!

- Essex Barking Bay, 348 on Dec 15th. Collier Row (8-10). East Ham, 200 all year in town centre. Grays, 250 on Dec 27th. Hainault Forest, 500 in fields on Sept 16th. Ilford, 300 all year in town centre. Leyton (3), at Leyton Underground Station. Rainham Marsh, 260 in Dec. Romford (50), with 250 in Dec. Valentine's Park, 360 in Oct. Wanstead Park (1).
- Herts Abbots Langley, 142 on Sept 9th. Grand Union Canal at Batchworth, 'bred'.
- Middx Harlington, 120 in stubble on Aug 30th.
- Kent Charlton (7-10).
- Surrey Chelsham, 250 in maize stubble on Dec 9th. R. Thames near Twickenham, 120 on Dec 14th. Woldingham, 300 on Feb 5th on failed barley crop.
- In Lond Broadley St Gdns, 200 on Mar 5th. Grand Union Canal, Little Venice to Westbourne Green, 420 on Sept 17th. Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park to Westbourne Green, 320 on Jun 11th. Hallfield Estate, W2, 130 on May 23rd. Limehouse, 166 in Sept. Marble Arch, W2, 150 on Dec 14th. Regent's Square, WC1, 208 on Sept 11th. Trafalgar Square, 2000+ on Sept 29th. Victoria Park, 159 in June.

0668 Stock Dove***Columba oenas***

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

This hole-nesting pigeon continues to increase as a breeding bird: that much is clear despite patchy coverage this year. A strong set of breeding data came from the Essex sector, but none from well-colonised Herts or from one of the established top localities, Osterley Park in Middx. In Inner London, observations at Paddington Green, W2, confirmed the Stock Dove's status as a migrant in our Area. Larger counts and nesting information follow (pairs or territories in brackets).

- Essex Beckton SW (5). Bedfords Park (7-8). Belhus Woods CP (2-3). Berwick Ponds (2-3). Cranham Marsh (3). Dagnam Park (10). Fairlop Lakes CP (2). Fishers Green (1). Hainault Forest (16; 'still increasing'). Havering CP (8). Purfleet (2). Rainham Marsh (6-7), with 65 on Oct 13th. Stubbers OPC (2). Upminster, 143 near Berwick Farm on Dec 30th. Walthamstow Res (2). Warren Pond, Epping Forest (3).
- Herts Kings Langley, 68 on Dec 8th. Moor Mill, 60 on Sept 24th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (1). Bushy Park (6). Hampstead Heath (3-4). Home Farm, Harmondsworth, 60 on Nov 18th. Horsenden Hill (2-3). Perivale Wood (3). Trent Park (1).
- Bucks Withy Bridge, Iver, 170 on Feb 7th.

- Kent Bexley Wood (1). Crofton Heath, one on June 8th had 'a pale beige area on part of its back and one wing'. Foots Cray Meadows (4). Maryon Wilson Park (2). Swanscombe Marsh, 55 on Sept 20th.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, 70 on maize stubble on Jan 11th. Beddington SF, 21 flew S on Feb 4th. Cannon Hill Common (1). Hersham GP, a leucistic bird on Mar 14th. Limpsfield (1). Moorhouse (2). Morden Hall Park (7; 'increasing breeding population').
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, present but no proof of breeding this year. Kensington Gardens, eight on May 8th. Kings Cross, Grand Union Channel, one N on May 10th. Paddington Green, W2, 24 flyovers on spring passage (Mar 29th to May 31st) and 32 in autumn (July 24th to Oct 27th). Regent's Park (8).

0670 Woodpigeon***Columba palumbus***

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Once again, a striking feature of the year was the cluster of high counts of overflying Woodpigeons in the last few days of Oct and first few days of Nov. Most of these were moving in a direction between S and W. Commenting on similar movements in Suffolk, *The Migration Atlas* (BTO, 2002) states that: 'It is likely that the majority of these birds are from Fennoscandia and heading for France or Iberia, and are not in Britain long enough either to be ringed or for any rings they are carrying to be recovered.' The *Atlas* lists only eight recoveries of foreign-ringed Woodpigeons in Britain. The nature of these movements over London remains to be clarified.

Breeding reports (pairs or territories in brackets) and larger counts are given.

- Essex Bedfords Park (15). Berwick Ponds (6-7). Collier Row, W movements at dawn during Jan-Feb, with peak count of 850 on Jan 7th. Copped Hall, 1,000 on Dec 18th and 23rd. Hainault Forest (30), with 750 SW on Oct 27th. Havering CP (20). Navestock, 600 on Jan 14th. Rainham Marsh (15-20). Waterworks NR (2).
- Herts Amwell GP, 1500 'in Oct'. Borehamwood, 1100 flew SW on Oct 29th. Watford, 2,000 flew SW on Oct 29th.
- Middx Brent Res, 3,300 flew S before 09.00 on Oct 27th, and 2500 flew S on Oct 29th. Hampstead Heath, 'massive early morning flights in late Oct peaked at c5,000 with up to another 2000 later in the morning.' Horsenden Hill, 1150 flew S on Oct 28th. Middlesex Filter Beds (3).
- Bucks The only report received was of an albino at Tilehouse North Lake on Mar 25th.
- Kent Maryon Wilson Park (15).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, counts of birds flying over were: 672 on Oct 23rd and 1,000 on 29th; 1,505 on Nov 2nd, 650 on 3rd and 800 on 10th. Beddington SF, 3100 flew S on Oct 28th. Cannon Hill Common, ten territories in CBC. Epsom Common, on Dec 4th, 1083 flew over between 07.30-07.50, 'from large roost at Ashted Common'. Holmethorpe SP, 1000 on Nov 24th and 25th. Morden Hall Park (40); 700 flew SW on Oct 25th and 500 on Nov 1st. QE II Res, 2,384 flew S from 07.40-09.10hrs on Oct 27th. South Norwood

Lake, 1,300 flew SW on Oct 28th. Woldingham, 3,000 on unharvested barley on Feb 3rd.

In Lond Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park to Westbourne Green (8). Paddington Green, W2 (3); 434 flew WNW in 2.5 hours on Oct 29th, then 2,406 SW in 1.5 hours on Nov 1st and 2,454 SW in 1.5 hours on Nov 2nd, with much smaller numbers thereafter. Regent's Park, 1,000 flew over on Nov 1st.

0684 Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

Status: common breeding resident.

Much breeding information came from the Essex sector this year. Higher counts and breeding data are given below (pairs or territories in brackets). There was no significant information from the Bucks or Inner London sectors.

Essex Bedfords Park (5-6). Berwick Ponds (8-10). Corbets Tay (6-7). Leigh Road, East Ham (7). Gidea Park (4-5). Grays (10+). Hainault Forest (5). Havering CP (6). Abbey Wood Lane area, Havering-atte-Bower (15). Holyfield Hall Farm, 120 on Sept 28th. Kelvedon Hatch, 100 on Sept 13th. North Ockendon (5). Purfleet (7-8). Harrow Lodge Park, Romford (7-8). Romford (15+). Upminster (10-12).

Herts Bedmond, 40 on Sept 6th.

Middx Brent Res (2). Horsenden Hill (10), with 24 on Jan 2nd. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 30 on Oct 5th and 46 on Oct 15th.

Kent Charlton Park (1). Jubilee Park, a pale buff bird, possibly leucistic, on June 9th and 21st.

Surrey Ashted Common, six territories in CBC. Morden Hall Park (3), 'exceptionally poor breeding success this year'.

0687 Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

Status: localised breeding summer resident and passage migrant.

A once-common species of our countryside, now with a 'Red' conservation listing in the UK. All records of calling birds or known pairs are given in brackets below; however, some calling birds were reported on only a few dates, while others lingered but definitely did not breed. All other records are also listed or summarised. It seems the Essex sector is currently something of a stronghold for the Turtle Dove in London. The first record this year was of three at Hall Marsh (Essex) on Apr 22nd, and the last was of a single at Regent's Park on Sept 29th.

Essex Berwick Ponds (2-3). Bush Farm (2). Cornmill Meadows (2). Dagnam Park (1). Fishers Green (1). Galley Hill (1). Hainault Forest (1). Hornchurch CP (2). Purfleet Chalk Pits (1). Rainham Marsh (1). Stubbers OPC (1). Thrift Wood (1). Non-breeding records, of 1-3 birds, came from a further eight sites.

Herts Amwell GP, one on July 26th. Essendon (2). Rye Meads SF, present during the breeding season with a maximum of ten, on May 26th.

- Middx Brent Res, two on May 20th and one on Sept 8th. Ickenham, one on Aug 5th. Lake Farm, Hayes, one on May 27th. Middlesex Filter Beds, one on May 12th. SITA quarry, Sipson, two on Aug 15th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, singles on May 25th and Sept 19th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on May 6th.
- Kent Chipstead Lake, two on June 1st. Dartford Marsh (1). Ruxley GP, one on Aug 26th. Sevenoaks WR, singles on May 7th and 13th, two on 14th, one on June 3rd and two on Aug 25th. Swanscombe Marsh (2). Thames Barrier, one on Aug 26th. Thamesmead, one on May 13th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on May 12th and Aug 28th. Bookham Common (1+). Epsom, one on May 10th. Epsom Common, one on Sept 13th. Hersham GP, one on May 15th. Limpsfield Chart (2), but observer noted 'no evidence of breeding'. London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 12th. Molesey Heath, singles on May 8th and 20th, and on June 5th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on May 9th and Sept 29th (ARD, DJn).

0712 Ring-necked Parakeet***Psittacula krameri***

Status: feral breeding resident.

This hardy bird is flourishing in its strongholds in Surrey, Kent and Middlesex, but is still scarce in Herts and Essex. Many reports are of small numbers flying to communal roosts. This year, the main roost in Surrey moved from Esher RFC to Esher SF on about Aug 28th, but returned to its original site on about Nov 17th. Nearby, in a Molesey garden, 59 birds were ringed during the year, and measurements confirmed them to be of the Indian (not the African) pair of subspecies. This accords with previous findings that feral populations in Europe, the US and elsewhere appear to be of the race *manillensis*, native in India and Sri Lanka (*Parrots*, Juniper and Parr (1998)).

Breeding records (number of pairs or nest-holes in brackets) and larger counts are listed.

- Essex Single birds seen at Dagenham Chase, Ilford and Romford, with two at Epping on Mar 15th.
- Herts Single birds seen at Garston (in July and Sept), Rickmansworth and Rye Meads SF.
- Middx Reported from 32 localities. Bedfont Lakes CP, '10-15 present all year'. Bushy Park, 50 on Sept 15th; 'numbers still rising, number of nests unknown'. Crane Park, Twickenham (1). Hampton, 130 flying to roost, Sept 14th. Horsenden Hill, pair possibly bred. Laleham Park (1). Osterley (1). Perivale Wood, pair probably bred. Woodcock Park, Harrow (1).
- Bucks Reported from seven localities. Wraysbury GP (1), with 60 on June 1st and 200 flying to roost on Dec 30th.
- Kent Reported from 28 localities. Abbey Hill Park, Sidcup, 208 flying to roost on July 27th. Beckenham Place Park (3). Foots Cray Meadows (7), with 100 on Nov 19th. Lewisham Crematorium, 626 on Jan 13th and 645 on Feb 11th. Wilmington, 'attempted breeding'.
- Surrey Reported from 51 localities. Ham Lands (5). Hersham, peak count at the main roost at Esher RFC was 3080 on Feb 21st. East Molesey (1). Morden Hall

Park (1-2). Mortlake, 250 flying to roost on Oct 20th. Nonsuch Park (3). R. Mole, Hersham, 250 flying to roost on Sept 6th. Richmond Park (5).

In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 4th. Surrey Docks, one on Jan 15th.

0724 Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first report this year came on Apr 14th, from Wraysbury GP. Records were very widely scattered throughout London's rural fringe, but the Cuckoo does seem to be a bird in decline. One at the London Wetland Centre on Aug 18th was the last of the year.

Essex Reported from 25 localities. Breeding-season concentrations were at Berwick Ponds (4+ males), Ingrebourne Valley (2-3 females), Rainham Marsh (4/5 males, 1/2 females) and Sewardstone Marsh (5 males and females).

Herts Reported from Amwell GP, Cheshunt GP ('three males summered'), Great Amwell, Rye House Marsh and Rye Meads SF (peak count five on May 27th).

Middx Records came from nine localities, but breeding not reported.

Bucks Black Park, singles in May and June. Wraysbury GP, reported in Apr-June, with three on June 2nd.

Kent Reported from Dartford Marsh, Hall Place Gardens, Sevenoaks WR, Swanscombe Marsh (three on May 13th), Thamesmead (three on Apr 29th) and Wilmington.

Surrey Reported from 18 localities. The peak count was of three at Banstead Wood on Apr 23rd; other comments on status came from Bookham Common ('none seen or heard after June 4'), Itchingwood Common ('decidedly scarce and still decreasing'), Limpsfield Chart ('worst year on record') and Woldingham ('extremely scarce in 2001').

In Lond Kensington Gardens, one on May 20th (PCK).

0735 Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Status: rare breeding resident.

With no confirmed breeding and just one pair reported in the breeding season, the future is looking bleak for this species in London. Reported from ten locations, slightly down on the 11 last year. All records are given.

Essex Beckton SF, a pair in July and August. Epping, one seen twice in June. Hornchurch CP, one on Feb 16th. Loughton, one on Aug 2nd. Onslow Green, one on June 3rd. Rainham Marsh, one on Apr 1st.

Herts Hertford, one on Nov 11th. Hilfield Park Res, one found dead on Apr 7th had been ringed in general area.

Kent Dartford Marsh, one seen on several dates throughout year.

Surrey Beddington SF, one roosting on several dates between Jan 14th and Mar 4th.

0757 Little Owl***Athene noctua***

Status: localised breeding resident.

Recorded from 64 sites but only 11 breeding pairs, compared with 60 sites and 36 pairs in 2000. There is a considerable difference in observations from year to year in this species but with a peak of 107 breeding pairs in 1997 there does seem to be a marked decline.

All sites are listed with numbers of breeding pairs in brackets.

- Essex Aldborough Hatch, Copped Hall, Cranham Marsh, Curtismill Green, Dagnam Park (1), Fairlop Lakes CP (1), Great Warley (1), Hainault Forest, Hayes Hill Farm, Holyfield Hall Farm, Hornchurch, King George V Res, Nazeing GP, Netherhall GP, Rainham Marsh (1), Sewardstone (two sites), Sewardstone Marsh, South Hornchurch, South Weald, Stubbers OPC, Tyler's Common, Upminster, Upshire, Walthamstow Marsh, Warlies Park, Waterworks NR, Weald Park (2).
- Herts Aldenham, Aldenham GC, Amwell GP, Beech Farm GP, Langleybury (1), North Mymms Park, St Albans, Symondshyde Great Wood, Watford.
- Middx Bushy Park (breeding numbers not reported), Hampton Court Park, Horsenden Hill, Osterley Park (1), Parkside Farm/Res, Staines Moor, Ten Acre Wood, Vicarage Farm.
- Bucks Richings Park.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (1), Sevenoaks WR.
- Surrey Banstead Wood, Beddington Park, Beddington SF, Esher, Field Common GP, Hersham, Hersham GP, Holmethorpe SP, Horton CP, Limpsfield, Morden Hall Park (1), Morden Park, Prince Georges PF (1), Richmond Park, Trevereux/Swaynesland, Walton Res.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one present throughout year.

0761 Tawny Owl***Strix aluco***

Status: common breeding resident.

Only 25 breeding pairs were reported this year compared to about 50 last year but this appears to be due to less coverage rather any decline. Breeding can be difficult to confirm with this species, for example of the 34 sites where it was reported in the Surrey sector, only five breeding pairs were reported. In total, Tawny Owls were reported from 83 sites this year.

Inner London records are given below.

- In Lond Aberdare Gardens, NW6, one on several dates between May and Aug. Broadhurst Gardens, NW6, one on Apr 23rd. Clifton Gardens, W2, one in Oct. Compayne Gardens, NW6, one throughout year. Greville Place, NW6, one in Jan and from Sept to Dec. Kensington Gardens, 1-2 in Feb and Mar. Paddington Green, W2, one in Feb. Regent's Park, one pair bred, the first confirmed breeding in the park in five years. South Hampstead, one in April.

0767 Long-eared Owl***Asio otus***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare breeder

Just one confirmed breeding record this year, compared to 2-3 pairs in 2000. Winter roosting numbers were again down on last year. All records are given.

Essex Site A, one reported throughout year.

Herts Cheshunt GP, up to two roosting on island on Seventy Acres Lake in Jan and Feb and one in Nov and Dec (mo).

Middx Tottenham Marsh, one hunting on Nov 29th (DGD).

Kent Site B, six roosted in January, one pair bred. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Feb 16th and 17th and Mar 4th (GCN,BEW).

0768 Short-eared Owl***Asio flammeus***

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in summer.

A good late Autumn passage with at least 14 seen but surprisingly only one bird appeared to be wintering at the end of the year compared with five at the start. All records are given.

Essex Fairlop Lakes CP, one on Dec 2nd (DTM). Hall Marsh, one on Nov 11th flew high south (DJo). King George V Res, one on May 11th (AJG). Rainham Marsh, up to five in first winter period and one in second winter period (mo). Tyler's Common, one on Dec 12th.

Middx Brent Res, one circled high on Nov 7th (ASMS) and another on Dec 1st (LAB,ASMS,AGV). King George VI Res, one circled high on Oct 20th (PGa). Yeading Brook Meadows, one on Dec 15th (SJS).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Oct 17th (AVM).

Kent Swanscombe Marsh, one on Oct 24th (BEW).

Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Oct 28th and Nov 4th (BBR). London Wetland Centre, singles on Sept 13th (NAn, JPPW), Oct 25th (RGn,MPy,DWs) and Nov 28th (NPS). Nore Hill, Chelsham, one on Sept 4th (BJT). QE II Res, one on Oct 20th (DMH).

0778 Nightjar***Caprimulgus europaeus***

Status: rare breeding summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

Records were received from two of the three sites as in 2000.

Bucks Site A, one in 'early June'.

Surrey Site B, churring heard in May and June and a female 'behaving as if with young' on July 16th.

0795 Swift *Apus apus*

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the year was at the London Wetland Centre on Apr 8th, nine days earlier than in 2000. Only a handful more were seen in the next week, gradually becoming more widespread until the first big day of passage on 28th with several sites reporting flocks in the hundreds with the largest count of 650+ at Staines Res. This continued over the following days with counts of 1,000 at Walthamstow Res on 28th, 1,000 at Rye Meads SF on 29th and at Staines Res on 30th. The same sites had the largest numbers in May when 2,000 were logged on 3rd. Much lower numbers were seen elsewhere during the month but there was another peak at the beginning of June with 1,600 at Hilfield Park Res on 1st and 1500 at Rainham Marsh on 2nd.

In July the only large counts were: c500 at Paddington Green on 26th, 1,600 at South Norwood Lake on 26th, 400 at Havering on 29th and c800 at Green Street Green on 31st. There were no large counts in August and birds appeared to slip away almost unnoticed. Very few were seen in September and the last ones of the year were two at Hooks Marsh on 30th.

Breeding records are listed below with number of pairs in brackets.

- Essex Collier Row (8+ in one colony, 4-5 in another). Corbets Tey (3-4). Dagenham (colonies of 20 and 40). Dagnam Park, bred but down from previous year. Kelvedon Hatch (1). Leyton (1). Romford (25+ pairs in town centre in four colonies and 8-10 pairs at Rush Green).
- Herts No breeding information received.
- Middx Teddington (c3).
- Bucks No breeding information received.
- Kent Bexley, nesting reported. Crayford, several pairs bred.
- Surrey Limpsfield, "bred in village, no more than 10 over the colony". Molesey (2). Oxted (3). Sanderstead (1). Tolworth (1).
- In Lond Compayne Gardens, NW6 (1). Goldhurst Terrace, NW6 (2). Maida Vale W9, "strongly suspected of breeding". Notting Hill (1).

0831 Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Status: breeding resident, locally common in some areas.

There were 41 pairs reported in the breeding season, about the average for the last two years, although, like in 2000, breeding was reported from another new site and it is interesting to see the productivity of the Rye House Marsh pair which breed in front of a hide at a busy RSPB reserve.

Breeding pairs (numbers of pairs in breeding season in brackets) and high counts listed below along with all Inner London records.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (1). Berwick Ponds (1). Cranham Marsh (1). Dagenham Chase (1). Dagnam Park (1). Fairlop Lakes CP (1). Hooks Marsh (1). Leyton, R. Lea (2). Rainham GP (1). Rainham Marsh (1). Roding Valley NR (1). Walthamstow Res (1), five on Nov 10th. Wanstead Park (1). Waterworks NR (2).

- Herts Amwell GP (2). Bricket Wood/Common (1). Cheshunt GP (3). Royal Masonic School (1). Rye House Marsh (1, raised three broods). Stocker’s Lake (1). Watford (1).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (1). Brent Res (2). Hampstead Heath (1, possibly first ever breeding record from site). Horsenden Hill (1).
- Bucks Horton GP (1). Thorney (1). Wraysbury GP, seven on Jan 14th.
- Kent Bexley Wood (1). Chipstead Lake (1). Ruxley GP (1), five on June 3rd. Sevenoaks WR (1).
- Surrey Carshalton (1). Hackbridge (1). Morden Hall Park (1). R. Hogsmill, Berrylands (1). Thorpe Water Park, seven on Sept 16th.
- In Lond Limehouse, one on Sept 29th. Regent’s Canal at St Johns Wood, one on July 25th.

0846

Hoopoe

Upupa epops

Status: vagrant

- Middx Osterley Park, one from Sept 2nd to 6th (LMc *et al*).
- There was only one 2001 record of Hoopoe, which nowadays is barely an annually occurring vagrant in London. This bird was present for a five-day extended stay that is more typical of Autumn sightings.

0848

Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

Status: scarce passage migrant, usually in autumn

- Herts. Rye Meads, a single bird was present on Sept 7th (RMRG).
- Just one single-day accepted sighting is about average for this ‘difficult to see in London’ species. Autumn records are more common than Spring records and this date is fairly typical.

0856

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

Status: common breeding resident

The total number of sites reporting this species in 2001 was 164. This represents a marked reduction in the trend from the previous three years: 1998-150, 1999-185, 2000-245. The table below shows the position by county:

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Essex	13+	28+	55	64	45
Herts	19	28+	23	24	21
Middx	6	13	12	23	35
Bucks	26	33	34	39	1
Kent	33	32	19	33	24
Surrey	37	28	32	51	29
Inner London	4	13	12	11	9

This clearly represents some inconsistency and under-recording in 2001 (especially Bucks.) but also possibly the first sign of a down-turn. However this appears unlikely as Green Woodpecker seems to be present at most sites with suitable habitat.

Sites reporting five or more breeding pairs were as follows: Bushy Park (7+), Cranham Marsh (5), Dagnam Park (5), Horsenden Hill (5+).

In Lond Buckingham Palace, present from Mar 5th until July 16th. Kensington Gardens, probably bred. Paddington Green, present Apr until Oct. Regent's Park, two pairs bred. Also recorded at Broadhurst Gdns, Greville Place, Primrose Hill, and Victoria Park.

0876 Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Status: common breeding resident

In 2001 Greater Spotted Woodpeckers were reported from 178 sites compared to 220 in 2000. However there were no sites reported at all from Bucks, and if allowance is made for this obvious under-reporting then the number of sites is similar to 2000. The number of breeding pairs reported has risen to 317 in 2001, an increase of 65 breeding pairs. A table comparing the two years in terms of sites and reported breeding is shown below.

		Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lon
Sites.	2000	48	25	12	30	24	54	14
	2001	55	25	35	0	24	29	15
Pairs	2000	111	36	33	0	20	45	6
	2001	114	31	52	0	23	90	7

Sites with five or more breeding pairs are listed along with a summary of Inner London records:

Essex Belhus Wood (5+). Bury Wood, Epping (9+). Dagnam Park (6). Furze Plain, Epping (9+). Long Running, Epping (6+). Ongar Park Wood (6).

Middx Bushy Park (5+). Grovelands Park (5+). Horsenden Hill (8). Perivale Wood (7+).

Surrey Bookham Common (5+). Morden Hall Pk (4+). Wimbledon Common (c50).

In Lond Aberdare Gdns, one territory. Buckingham Palace, probably one territory. Paddington Green, one pair bred. Regent's Canal, one pair bred. Regent's Park, three pairs bred. Also reported at Compayne Gdns; Greville Place; Hyde Park; Kensington Gdns; Limehouse; Sarre Rd, NW6; Southwark Park; St James' Park; and Victoria Park.

0887 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor

Status: common, but elusive, breeding resident.

The table shows a peak of 125 sites reporting this species in 1998. In 2001 reports were received from 87 locations, an increase of five sites over the

2000 total of 82. Included in this total is a huge rise from 15 to 35 locations for Essex. It is not clear what caused this increase but it is thought likely to be an increase of observer effort correcting previous under-recording. From the reported 87 locations a total of 49-51 reports were received of breeding or territorial behaviour. Reports for the next few years need to be carefully checked to see if Lesser Spotted Woodpecker reports have stabilised or continue to drop. There were no Inner London reports.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Essex	18	23	19	15	35
Herts	25	15	17	17	7
Middx.	14	22	23	15	14
Bucks	4	3	0	2	0
Kent	15	28	14	11	11
Surrey	31	32	29	22	20
Inner London	2	2	1	0	0

Reports of breeding/territorial pairs for each county were as follows:
Essex (23-24), Hertfordshire (94), Middlesex (6-7), Kent (5), Surrey (11).

0974

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

Status: scarce passage migrant and recently re-established rare breeder.

Once again Woodlark has been reported as breeding or present in suitable habitat during the breeding season. However, its status is at best precarious with a maximum of four pairs from three locations. Breeding reports were received from two sites in Surrey and one in Hertfordshire. All records are listed.

- Essex
- Chingford Plain, one flew SE on Oct 30th (KM). Hornchurch CP, two on Jan 6th (LH).
- Herts
- Site A, a single pair bred at an undisclosed site.
- Middx
- Yeading Brook Meadows, one on Dec 8th (SPh).
- Surrey
- Island Barn Res, one circled overhead for 2-3 mins on Dec 19th (DMH).
Site B, singing male at known site on June 17th. Site C, two records from known site, three on July 16th and one on Oct 25th.
In Lond Regent's Park, one flew W on Oct 14th (DJn).

0976

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were eleven counts of over 100 Skylarks seen during 2001; four occurred in the first winter period and seven in the second. As in 2000 there was a strong north-east bias in these reports with six of these counts being from Essex. The highest count of the year was of 230 at Chiswell Green, Herts on Dec 23rd. In addition to counts of 100 or more there were a further 38 reports of counts between 50 and 100. This represents a huge increase on the previous year. Records of 100 or over are as follows:

Essex	Holyfield Hall Farm, 100 on Nov 18th and 28th. Navestock, 100 on Feb 1st. Rainham Marsh, 110 on Jan 1st, 100 on Jan 20th and Dec 1st.
Herts	Chiswell Green, 230 on Dec 23rd. Coursers Lane Fields, 120 on Jan 30th.
Surrey	London Wetland Centre, 143 W on Nov 11th. Rushett Farm, 100 on Dec 2nd.

The Essex dominance apparent in winter continues when breeding records are studied. Breeding or territorial behaviour in the breeding season was reported from 50 sites with a total of 282 breeding pairs/singing males involved. Essex topped the list with a total of 201 pairs from 19 sites. Middlesex had 13 sites but with only 23 pairs involved. Breeding reports from the other counties were: Kent 5 sites/19 pairs; Surrey 5 sites/13 pairs; Bucks 4 sites/sixteen pairs; and Herts 4 sites and 10 pairs. In spite of a probable observer bias Essex is clearly the stronghold for this species in London.

In Lond	Regent's Park, one on Mar 16th, two on Oct 16th, and singles on Nov 10th and 11th. St James's Park, one on Oct 18th.
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0981 Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first records of the year were of single birds on Mar 10th at Cornmill Meadows and Amwell GP. Three more were at Amwell and Darenth Lake the following day. Birds continued to trickle in until Mar 24th when 80 were reported from Walthamstow Res. On Mar 29th 300 were reported from Amwell GP and 350 were seen to roost there on Apr 9th, which was the highest Spring count. Throughout this period there were 20 reports of 100 or more birds.

There were eight reports of 100 birds or more during the Autumn migration period. 250 were at Rye Meads SF on July 19th, and 140 were seen at Walthamstow Res on July 21st. In September, there were 100 at Morden Hall Park on 2nd; 135 at Brent Res on 8th; 100 at London Wetland Centre on 14th; 120 at Rainham Marsh on 15th; and again at Brent Res there were 150 on 17th and 200 on 18th. The final record for the year was of four at Fishers Green on Oct 27th.

Breeding was reported from 11 sites, slightly lower than last year's 13. Breeding records by county (number of nests in brackets) and Inner London records are listed below

Essex	Rainham GP (84). Purfleet Chalk Pits (80+). R. Roding Barking (14). William Girling Res (8). Royal Albert Docks (7-8).
Herts	Amwell GP no reports of breeding. Tyttenhanger GP (11).
Middx	No reports of breeding.
Bucks	Warren Farm (91).
Kent	Swanscombe Marsh (21 new nest holes, old colony destroyed over winter by Channel Tunnel rail link excavations).
Surrey	Beddington SF (7). Walton Reservoir (84).

In Lond Hyde Park, five on May 1st and one on May 3rd. Regent's Park, one on Apr 3rd and five on Sept 23rd.

0992 Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of the year was at Horton GP on Mar 22nd, this was followed two days later by records of singles at Fairlop Lakes CP and Hersham with two being seen at Hilfield Park Res. Records continued to trickle in with 10 at Paddington Green on Mar 29th and 15 at Troy Mill GP on April 10th being of note. Numbers continued to rise but there were still relatively few larger counts. There were only two spring counts of 100 birds or more, Broadwater Lake had 100 on Apr 20th and Brent Res had 127 on Apr 28th. Birds on passage were still being seen well into May with Inner London records on May 14th of 30 in Regent's Park and 25 in Hyde Park. Staines Res had the last flurry of the Spring passage with 35 seen on 18th, nearly two months after the arrival of the first.

On the same date as the last passage birds were seen, two adults were observed feeding young at Kingston next to the R. Thames. Breeding was reported from at least 20 sites with a spread all around the London perimeter and also along the Thames. Seven pairs were reported from West End Common in Surrey and five pairs from Bricket Wood in Hertfordshire.

By the middle of August the Autumn passage was clearly under way with c50 near Hainault Forest on Aug 16th. From then until late September passage continued in a piecemeal fashion with just three counts of 100 birds: at Hainault on Aug 31st, at King George VI on Sept 19th and at Rainham Marsh on Sept 23rd. The highest Autumn count was of 259 birds at the London Wetland Centre on Sept 30th. In October, there were 100 at Copped Hall on 6th; and a concentration of birds in the SW on 8th with 50 at King George VI Res, 100 at Queen Mary Res and 200 at Staines Res; 101 were heading south at Epsom Common on 12th and the last bird of the Autumn was seen at the London Wetland Centre on Nov 3rd.

In Lon Hyde Park, 25 on May 14th. Regent's Park, 30 on Apr 29th, 30 on May 14th, 40 on Sept 12th, 22nd & 26th. Also reported from: Camden Town, Paddington Green, Primrose Hill, Trafalgar Square and Victoria Park.

1001 House Martin

Delichon urbicum

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Amwell GP had the first House Martin of the year on the extremely early date of Mar 11th. This bird beat the next, also at Amwell GP by 12 days. By the end of March there had been a grand total of six. The trickle continued and 20 at King George V Res on Apr 13th was the first sighting of more than two birds. By the end of April there had only been three counts of 50 or more, 50 were at Sewardstone Marsh on Apr 23rd, 65 at Walthamstow Res on Apr 29th and

60 at the London Wetland Centre on the same date. The highest count of Spring was 100 at Cheshunt GP on May 6th. Nine at Paddington Green on May 30th marked the end of a Spring passage that had lasted for over two and a half months.

Breeding was reported from 57 locations: Essex and Surrey reported breeding from 15 locations, Middlesex and Inner London were next with nine sites each, while Herts had six and Kent just three. None were reported from Bucks.

Autumn passage was extended with probably the first signs of a return passage in late July with 250 birds at King George VI Res on 22nd. 100 at the London Wetland Centre on Aug 6th were certainly leaving and marked the beginning of a heavy Autumn passage. The last birds were seen on Oct 23rd when over 100 were reported again at London Wetland Centre. In this period of two and a half to three months there were eighty reports of 100 birds or more with twelve of these being counts of over 500 birds. The highest count was of 6,000 at Dartford between 11.00 and noon on Sept 30th, heading West at a rate of 100 per minute. This was by far the largest movement of the Autumn with other lesser numbers noted elsewhere in Kent and Surrey on that date. Larger counts of over 100 are listed below by county with breeding records for Inner London (number of pairs in brackets).

Essex	Dagenham Chase, 110 on Sept 30th. King George V Res, 400 on Sept 18th. Rainham Marsh, 130 on Sept 8th, 400 on Sept 19th, 300 on Sept 23rd. Weald Park, 200 on Sept 29th.
Herts	Amwell GP, 200 on June 1st. Croxley Moor, 1,000 on Oct 4th. Hilfield Park Res, 500 on Sept 13th.
Middx	Brent Res, 200 on Sept 17th and 18th, 120 on Sept 23rd. Hampstead Heath, 200 on Oct 6th. Horsenden Hill, 300 on Oct 9th. King George VI Res, 250 on July 22nd; 237 on Aug 7th, 500 on 12th; 250 on Sept 5th, 500 on 19th; 200 on Oct 8th and 250 on 9th. Queen Mary Res, 200 on Oct 8th. Staines Res, 200 on Aug 19th, 200 on Sept 16th, 500 on Sept 19th and 500 on Oct 8th. Twickenham, 160 on Sept 16th.
Bucks	No breeding details or high counts were received.
Kent	Dartford, 6000 on Sept 30th. Foots Cray Meadows, 650 on Sept 30th. Sevenoaks WR, 200 on Sept 30th.
Surrey	Beddington SF, 150 on Sept 24th. Epsom Common, 119 on Sept 29th. Island Barn Res, 180 on Sept 17th and 260 on 18th. London Wetland Centre, 120 on June 16th and 150 on 17th; 140 on Sept 12th, 170 on 18th, 200 on 19th and 1650 on 30th; 520 on Oct 7th and 300 on 10th. QE II Res, 180 on Sept 18th. South Norwood Lake, 200 on Sept 13th, 450 on 23rd and 2350 on 30th. Walton Res, 130 on Aug 9th, 250 on Sept 20th.
Inn Lon	Primrose Hill, 150 on Oct 10th. Regent's Park, 200 on Sept 18th, 300 on Oct 5th and 150 on 7th. Breeding records: Clarissa St E8 (9), Dunstan Rd E8 (4), Haggerston E2 (3), Harbord St SW6 (1), Hyde Park, French Embassy (11), Lisson Green Estate (3-4), Swan Rd SE16 (2).

1002 Richard's Pipit***Anthus novaeseelandiae***

Status: rare passage migrant.

Middx Lake Farm, Hayes, one on Nov 10th (PN).

The 19th record for London and the first since two in 1998.

1009 Tree Pipit***Anthus trivialis***

Status: passage migrant and decreasing breeding summer visitor.

The first of the year was at Fairlop on Mar 28th followed by Limpsfield Chart on Apr 1st. The species continues to decline with just two pairs confirmed as breeding, and another pair unsuccessful: this compares to four breeding pairs last year. Only 11 birds were recorded singing between May and early July, down slightly from 2000. The last bird of the year was at London Wetland Centre on Oct 19th. Breeding season and Inner London records are outlined below.

Essex Two pairs bred at two sites. At a third extended site, two males were singing in June with another territory close-by. At a fourth site one was singing on May 2nd.

Herts Singles were reported from three sites.

Middx One bird at a site on May 8th.

Bucks One bird at a site on June 2nd.

Kent One bird at a site on July 1st.

Surrey Two singing males at one site where a pair nested but both broods failed. One other site held a single singing male.

In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Apr 10th and May 15th. Hampstead Heath, one on Aug 15th. Isle of Dogs, one on Sept 29th.

1011 Meadow Pipit***Anthus pratensis***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor and common but increasingly localised breeder.

There were impressive spring and autumn counts compared to 2000, and slightly increased breeding figures in some areas, but with reductions in others. For the first time since 1989, no pairs bred at Tylers Common, Upminster. Notable counts early in the year included 200 at Rainham Marsh on Jan 1st, 50 at Bushy Park on Jan 17th, and 50 at Epsom Downs on Jan 7th. Spring flocks included 100 at Swanscombe Marsh on Mar 4th, 100 at Tylers Common on Mar 18th, and 136 at Rye Meads on Mar 18th. The best spring count by far was 700 over Hampstead Heath on Mar 24th in groups of 40-50 during the morning. Autumn migration highlights included: Rainham Marsh, four counts of 150, 250 on Sept 22nd and 29th, and 300 on Oct 13th; Rye Meads SF, 149 on Oct 13th; London Wetland Centre, 574 on Oct 3rd and 400 on Oct 10th; Primrose Hill, 271 on Oct 10th; Horsenden Hill, 140 on Oct 10th.

Records of singing males, or known breeding pairs (with numbers in brackets) are shown below, as well as Inner London records not mentioned above.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (15). Belhus Woods CP (2-3). Berwick Ponds (1-2). Chingford Plain (5, up from 3 in 2000). Corbets Tey (2-3). Fairlop Plain (8-9, up from 6+ last year). Hainault Forest, Hog Hill (2). Havering CP (1). Hornchurch CP (15-16, up slightly from last year). Stubbers OPC (8-9).
- Herts Beech Farm (3). Broxbourne Gravel Pit (1). Water Hill Quarry (1).
- Middx Bushy Park (9). Lake Farm (2). Rammey Marsh (6, up from 3 last year). Staines Moor (only one singing male reported). Wraysbury (1).
- Kent Blackheath (1). Dartford Marsh (2). Swanscombe Marsh (3). Thamesmead (1). Woolwich Common (7-8).
- Surrey Hersham GP (1+). Walton Heath (20, up from 14 last year). Walton Reservoir (1). Wimbledon Common (1, as in 1999).
- In Lond Hyde Park, one on Oct 11th. Kensington Gardens, two on Oct 25th. Paddington Green, one over on Mar 29th and autumn passage on five occasions in small numbers with maxima of four birds. Portobello Road, three over on Oct 19th. Regent's Park, 179 counted between Mar 15th and Apr 8th and 422 between Sept 12th and Nov 5th.

1014 Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

Birds were only noted at four sites in the spring - down from nine in 2000. Autumn passage was as 2000 with birds seen at 12 sites. Additionally, established Thames corridor sites Rainham Marsh and Swanscombe Marsh held spring and autumn passage birds. The last of the spring was at London Wetland Centre on Apr 1st and the first of the autumn was at Beddington SF on Sept 22nd.

Records are summarised for main wintering and passage sites, but all others are given.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, maxima of six on Dec 16th. Creekmouth, four on Feb 12th. Fairlop Lakes CP, one on Mar 18th. Grays, four on Dec 27th. King George V Res, five singles between Sept 29th and Nov 1st and two on Oct 20th. Rainham Marsh, maxima of 23 on Jan 13th and Dec 15th. Walthamstow Res, two on Oct 15th. Wm Girling Res, one on Oct 10th.
- Herts Amwell, one on Oct 14th.
- Middx King George VI Res, one on Oct 15th and 17th. Queen Mary Res, one on Oct 12th. Wraysbury Res, one on Oct 9th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Sept 25th and birds seen on several dates from Oct 17th to 29th, with maximum of six on the 19th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, singles on Nov 18th and Dec 23rd. North Woolwich, one on Jan 7th and two on Jan 13th. Swanscombe Marsh, maximum of 29 on Feb 11th. Woolwich, two on Feb 16th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Sept 22nd, Sept 29th, Oct 13th, Oct 19th, and Oct 28th. Island Barn Res, two on Oct 28th. London Wetland Centre, one on April

1st and Scandinavian race birds on Mar 18th and 27th. QE II Res, singles on Sept 18th, Oct 13th and Oct 17th.

In Lond Regent's Park, one on Oct 3rd.

1015 Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

Status: regular but localised winter visitor.

There was a minimum of 42 birds from 15 sites this year, virtually the same as 2000. The highest wintering count was up to 14 from eight last year. The last of the spring was at London Wetland Centre on Apr 19th with the first of the autumn at Rainham Marsh on Oct 13th.

All records are shown below except for the main sites where they are summarised.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Essex | King George V Res, one on Nov 2nd (AMi,PJV). Rainham Marsh, maxima of six in Jan, nine in Feb, eight in Mar, three in Oct, eight in Nov, and 14 in Dec (DMo,SRPg). |
| Middx | King George VI Res, singles on Jan 1st; Oct 10th and 17th; Nov 2nd, 5th, and 23rd (mo). Staines Moor, maxima of five in Jan and Feb, and two in Mar and Apr (mo). Staines Res, singles on Jan 6th (KLP) and two on Mar 18th (REv). Stanwell Moor, one on Nov 3rd (PN). Wraysbury Res, one on Nov 17th (CLa). |
| Bucks | Horton GP, singles on Mar 4th (CDRH) and 25th (JAS). Queen Mother Res, one on Oct 26th (JAS). |
| Kent | Crossness, one on Dec 16th (AJAD). Swanscombe Marsh, two on Mar 4th (MLn). |
| Surrey | Beddington SF, maxima of nine in Jan, five in Feb and Mar, and two in Apr (BBR). Hersham GP, singles on Mar 12th and Dec 16th (SJS). London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 8th (PBs), and Apr 12th (JPPW). QE II Res, one on Nov 4th (DMH). Worcester Park SW, one on Mar 27th (AQ). |

1017 Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing breeder.

The first for the year was at London Wetland Centre on Mar 27th followed by one at Amwell GP on Mar 31st. Spring passage did not pick up until the third week of April and was unspectacular with only four double figure flocks reported, none exceeding 12 birds. In April, 209 birds were reported compared to 220 in 2000. Very few sightings were recorded in the second half of May with the last at Beddington on the 31st.

Encouragingly, at least 16 pairs bred and a further four pairs were reported during the breeding season from ten sites compared to just nine pairs from four sites in 2000.

Autumn passage started around July 7th. There was a peak on Aug 24th with 155 birds recorded, and three figure flocks on four dates at Rainham in late

August and early September, with a maximum of 120. The last bird of the year was at Queen Mother Res on Oct 28th.

Breeding records, and counts of ten or more with a degree of summary for Rainham and King George VI Res, are given along with Inner London records.

- Essex At least 13 pairs bred across five sites. Coppermill FB, 16 on Sept 5th. Fairlop, 12 on Apr 23rd. Fishers Green, 10 on Aug 27th. Kelvedon Hatch, 15 on Sept 3rd. Rainham Marsh, 120 on Aug 24th with 55 on Aug 25th and 30 on Aug 26th; in Sept, there were significant double figure flocks at this site regularly throughout the month with peaks of 110 on the 6th and 9th.
- Herts Two pairs bred.
- Middx King George VI Res, 35 on Aug 24th and 31 on 29th with three other double figure flocks between 23rd and 26th; in Sept, there were 13 days of ten or more birds with a peak of 55 on the 3rd. Stanwell Moor, ten on Sept 18th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, 12 on Apr 20th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 12 on May 2nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, ten on Apr 23rd. QE II Res, 12 on Sept 1st.
- In Lond Paddington Green W2, one on Apr 22nd. Regent's Park, one on May 14th; two on Aug 27th; singles on Sept 5th and 10th, two on 16th, one on 17th and two on 23rd.

Blue-headed Wagtail

M. f. flava

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 29th (KB). Nags Head Fishing Lakes, one on Apr 21st (CRJ). Sewardstone Marsh, one on May 6th and 7th (GCG,DR)
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 28th (SF) and May 14th (NPS).

1019 Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Some 73 sites held birds during the breeding season compared to 66 last year. 82 pairs were reported of which 49 definitely bred. The highest counts of the year were both at Rye Meads SF with 25 on Aug 12th and 20 on Sept 8th.

Breeding season totals are broken down below together with significant counts not mentioned above and Inner London records.

- Essex 19 sites held 25 pairs with one site holding four pairs. The highest count was 12 at Walthamstow Res on Nov 10th.
- Herts Nine sites held ten pairs with success noted at five sites.
- Middx Nine sites held ten pairs with success noted at five sites.
- Bucks There were five pairs from five sites with breeding reported at three.
- Kent 12 sites held 13 pairs with breeding definite at five.
- Surrey There were 17 pairs at 16 sites with ten pairs recorded as breeding.

In Lond At three sites, 2-3 pairs bred successfully. There were six at Regent's Park on Sept 27th. Other birds were noted at 20 sites.

1020 Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

There were 12 roost sites recorded this year compared to six in 2000 with the largest, 300 birds, at Romford on Jan 9th. As in previous years, breeding records received do not give an accurate indication of numbers but this species continues to be widespread.

Confirmed breeding records, significant counts, roost counts, and a summary of Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Breeding was noted at Berwick Ponds, Barking, Barking Park, Collier Row, East Ham, Hainault Forest (5-6 pairs), Havering CP, Hornchurch CP, Rainham Marsh (6 pairs), and Stubbers UPC. High counts included: Nags Head, 100 on Jan 1st, 130 on Feb 18th and 100 in Mar 27th; Hainault Forest, 106 on Aug 16th. Roosts were at Beckton (100+ from Nov 1st to year-end), Gorsebrook (120 in Nov and Dec), Ilford (c140 from Nov 1st to year-end), and Romford (c300 on Jan 9th).
- Herts A family party at Stockers Farm. A roost of 120 was noted at Amwell (Mar 7th).
- Middx Pairs bred at Bushy Park, Horsenden Hill, Northolt, Ponders End Lake, Stanwell Moor GP, Sunbury, and Vicarage Farm. There were roosts of 47 at Harrow on Dec 31st and 200 at Uxbridge on Dec 5th.
- Bucks Richings Park, one on Jan 9th was the only sector record.
- Kent Pairs bred at Crofton Heath, Southborough, Ruxley GP and Thames Barrier. There was a roost of 39 at Bromley on Mar 11th.
- Surrey Breeding was recorded at London Wetland Centre (2), Morden Hall Park and Uxtd. Significant counts included: 90 at Beddington SF on Dec 27th; 96 at QE II Res on Oct 9th and 80 at Walton Res on Aug 29th. Roosts were noted at: Croydon, peaking at 280 on Mar 21st; Epsom, 200 on Oct 10th; Sutton, 120 on Dec 14th; and Wimbledon, 80 on Dec 19th.
- In Lond Birds were seen in the breeding season at Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Ten were at Regent's Park on Oct 3rd. Outside of the breeding season there were records from 16 sites.

White Wagtail

M. a. alba

Status: passage migrant, rarely identified in autumn.

The first records for the year were at Staines Moor on Mar 14th and Tylers Common on Mar 18th.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, one on Apr 21st. Dagenham Chase, two on Apr 8th and two on 20th. Fairlop Lakes CP, three on Apr 14th and 15th. King George V Res, one on Mar 28th and two on Apr 9th. Nags Head, two on Mar 20th three on 27th, and singles on Apr 4th, 21st and May 6th. Rainham Marsh, three on Mar 24th, 31st and Apr 1st, two on Apr 7th, 8th and 10th, four on 13th, 12 on

- 14th, four on 15th and 16th, seven on 21st, and one on May 6th. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Apr 28th and two on 29th. Tylers Common, two on Mar 18th. Walthamstow Res, five on Apr 1st and three on 12th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 15th and 16th. Stockers Farm, one on Sept 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Apr 12th, 15th, and May 20th.
- Middx Ponders End Lake, one on May 14th. Staines Moor, singles on Mar 14th, 25th, and 30th, Apr 19th, 21st, and 22nd, and May 8th. Staines Res, singles on Mar 18th and Apr 22nd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Apr 16th, three on 18th, and four on 20th. Horton GP, two on Apr 16th.
- Kent Deptford Creek, one on June 5th. Foots Cray Meadows, one on Apr 1st. Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 18th and two on Apr 15th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on May 13th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Mar 25th and 31st; three on Apr 4th, and singles on 14th, 23rd, and 25th. Hersham GP, singles on Mar 21st and 31st, and Apr 7th. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 18th, two on 19th, two on 24th and 26th, four on 31st; two on Apr 27th, three on 28th; singles on May 1st and 4th; singles on June 1st, 8th, and 10th and one on Oct 21st. QE II Res, one on Oct 23rd. Wimbledon Common, one on May 14th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 1st.

1048 Waxwing***Bombycilla garrulus***

Status: uncommon, but sometimes numerous, irruptive visitor.

- Essex Brentwood, 10-12 on Feb 25th (DMo). Childerditch Common, up to 46 from Feb 22nd to 25th (CRJ). Cranham Marsh, two on Jan 10th (SPs). Fishers Green, six on Jan 12th (HC). Holyfield Hall Farm, five on Jan 28th (DMe). Hornchurch CP, two on Jan 6th (DMo). South Hornchurch, two on Jan 6th (DMo). Waltham Abbey, one on Mar 7th (SC). Wm Girling Res, 13 on Mar 24th (RW).
- Herts Bushey, two on Apr 12th (HBC). Cheshunt, four on Dec 9th (HBC). Cheshunt GP, five on Jan 28th (HO). Rickmansworth, 11 from Feb 24th to Mar 27th (HBC). St Albans, three on Jan 17th (GJW). Turnford Brook, up to seven from Jan 14th to Feb 13th (mo). Ware, one on Jan 11th (HBC). Waterend, nine on Jan 7th (HBC). Wormley, five on Feb 3rd (DLg).
- Middx Hounslow Heath, six on Mar 3rd (KLP). Isleworth, two on Apr 6th and 7th (PGa,CLa). Southgate, four on Feb 14th and 21st (RMC). Winchmore Hill, four on Feb 2nd (RMC).
- Kent Blackheath, 13 on Mar 4th (GT). Crofton Heath, 14-15 on Apr 5th (DGo). Dartford, one on Jan 15th (CCr). Sevenoaks WR, up to five between Feb 9th and Mar 3rd (DDo,JWn).
- Surrey Brooklands, two from Jan 7th rising to 18 on Jan 20th and 20 on 27th and 28th (mo). Clackett Lane Services, 15 on Apr 3rd. Merstham, 8-9 on Feb 12th (WS). Morden, five on Feb 19th (IPW). New Malden, up to 12 from Jan 15th to 23rd, then 2-4 from Jan 28th to Feb 4th (mo). Redhill, up to 14 from Feb 25th to Mar 11th (mo). Tadworth, six on Jan 24th (MJS,GHS). Tolworth, nine on Jan 8th; ten on Mar 10th and one on 15th (JCS,AWP). Worcester Park, up to 11 from Apr 1st to 10th (GM).

Approximately 292 birds were seen in the first part of the year, the largest irruption of this species into London since 1996 when over 1000 were seen. At the end of the year there was just one flock of four noted.

1066 Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: abundant resident.

Counts of territorial males (numbers in brackets) of at least 15 are given below along with selected records from Inner London.

- Essex Bury Wood, Epping Forest (16). Hornchurch CP (31). R. Roding, Barking (27+). Waterworks NR (15).
 Herts Amwell GP (37). Cheshunt GP (44).
 Middx Bushy Park (27-32, 'about the same as 2000'). Middlesex Filter Beds (19). Rammey Marsh (20).
 Surrey Ashted Common (28, 20 in 1998). Bookham Common (27 on plains). Cannon Hill Common (22, 15 in 2000). Morden Hall Park (c60 singing males, breeding estimated at 70-80 pairs).
 In Lond Buckingham Palace (3-4). Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park to Westbourne Green (17-20). Paddington Green W2, (4-5, one pair bred in 2nd floor balcony vegetation). Regent's Park (36). St James's Park (5-6).

1084 Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant resident.

Counts of territorial males (numbers in brackets) of at least five are given below along with selected records from Inner London.

- Essex Hornchurch CP (9). R. Roding, Barking (14). Sewardstone Marsh (9). Waterworks NR (7) five in 2000.
 Herts Amwell GP (11).
 Middx Bushy Park (12-14). Rammey Marsh (14).
 Surrey Ashted Common (12), 11 in 1998. Bookham Common (16 on plains). Elmbridge Leisure Centre (6). Morden Hall Park (c20).
 In Lond Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park to Westbourne Green (8-10). Paddington Green, W2 (3-4). Regent's Park (24).

1099 Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

Counts of territorial males (numbers in brackets) of at least ten are given below along with selected records from Inner London.

- Essex Bury Wood, Epping Forest (125). Cranham Marsh (11). Highams Park School (10). Hornchurch CP (25). R. Roding, Barking (14). Stubbers OPC (11).
 Herts Amwell GP (17). Cheshunt GP (29). Whippendell Woods (20+).

- Middx Bushy Park (26-31), 'a slight drop'.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 20 trapped and ringed during June, including 19 juveniles.
 Surrey Ashted Common (38), 33 in 1998. Barwell Court Farm (16). Bookham Common (46 on plains). Cannon Hill Common (20), 15 in 2000. Morden Hall Park (c38).
 Kent Highest sector breeding count was a minimum of five pairs at Bexley Wood.
 In Lond Buckingham Palace (4). Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park to Westbourne Green (c15). Paddington Green, W2 (4). Regent's Canal at St. Johns Wood (c5). Regent's Park (36). St James's Park (3-4).

1104 Nightingale***Luscinia megarhynchos***

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers and scarce passage migrant.

The total of 28 territories or singing males at 12 sites was down on recent years (36-37 in 2000, 42 in 1999, 44 in 1998) although the numbers reported at most regular breeding sites were similar to last year. As in previous years some records of singing birds certainly refer to short-staying passage migrants rather than breeding birds. Reports came from a total of 16 sites following the first arrival - at Sewardstone Marsh on the early date of April 3rd. There were no autumn records. All records are given or summarised (numbers of territories in brackets).

- Essex Barkingside, one on May 3rd. Berwick Ponds (2). Blackmore, a male in High Wood on Apr 25th to 26th. Copped Hall, one singing male on June 1st. Fishers Green (4+). Hall Marsh, one on June 3rd. Hornchurch CP, one on May 8th and a male on June 8th and 18th. Navestock (1). Pilgrims Hatch (1). Sewardstone Marsh (4).
 Herts Maple Lodge NR, a singing male on June 13th. Rye Meads SF, one on June 16th.
 Middx Enfield Ecological Island, a singing male on May 20th.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 1-2 from Apr 27th to May 12th with two more trapped on Apr 28th.
 Kent Dartford Marsh (1). Swanscombe Marsh, one on May 27th.
 Surrey Bookham Common (8). Thorpe Water Park, a singing male on May 7th. Wallington, two in a garden during May and June.

1121 Black Redstart***Phoenicurus ochruros***

Status: breeding summer visitor; passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

Following last year's disappointing total of only four confirmed breeding pairs this year was slightly better with five confirmed pairs plus one additional pair present. The number of additional singing males fell slightly with only seven additional singing males reported (13 in 2000). Outside of the breeding season there were a few wintering individuals and more widespread records

during the passage periods. Breeding season records are summarised by county with all other records given or summarised.

	Pairs proved breeding	Other pairs present	Additional singing males
Essex	0	0	2
Herts	0	0	2
Middx	4	1	1
Kent	1	0	1
Inner London	0	0	1



- Essex
- Beckton SW, one on Jan 7th. Connaught Water, one on Apr 25th. Creekmouth, a pair during Jan to Mar. Dagenham, one singing at the Ford Plant in June and a female elsewhere on Nov 24th and 27th. King George V Res, a male from Jan 1st, to at least Feb 10th, two on Feb 22nd, a pair on Mar 11th and 17th, a male on Apr 7th, singles on May 5th and 16th, up to two from Oct 13th to Nov 11th, then one male until the end of the year with two males on Dec 31st. Purfleet, two females on Sept 15th, a male on Sept 16th, one on Nov 11th. Rainham Marsh, one singing in breeding season and one on Oct 28th. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Apr 11th. Walthamstow Res, one on Oct 27th. West Thurrock, a pair and two juveniles on Sept 16th.
- Herts
- Beech Farm, one on Nov 3rd. Hertford, one singing on Mar 19th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Oct 20th and 21st. Watford, one singing on June 23rd.
- Middx
- Brent Res, a male on Apr 8th. Brimsdown, 3-4 pairs breeding, a male on Oct 12th, juveniles on Nov 4th and 10th and a male from Dec 23rd to 31st. Isle of Dogs, one at Clipper Quay on Sept 27th and Oct 2nd, and a singing male at Mill Quay on June 2nd. East India Dock, three seen during Sept. King George VI Res, two on Oct 25th and 27th. Stonebridge Lock, Tottenham, a female on Apr 8th. Tottenham, one pair bred. Vicarage Farm, a 1st summer male on Apr 3rd.
- Kent
- Greenwich, pair bred.
- Surrey
- Island Barn Res, one on Oct 27th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 17th and from Mar 19th to 22nd, May 22nd and Aug 5th. Raynes Park, one on Oct 31st. QE II Res, one on Oct 15th and 16th. Trevereux/Swaynesland, one on Mar 25th. Walton Res, one from 2000 to Jan 16th and one from Nov 26th to Dec 17th.

In Lond Victoria Station, a female on Jan 1st (KDu). Waterloo Station, one singing on May 18th (SJG).

1122 Common Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Status: uncommon passage migrant and former breeder.

There were 12 or 13 in spring, between April 3rd and May 19th, with both the first and last of these seen at Victoria Park.

As usual autumn passage was more pronounced with 34 individuals recorded from 19 sites. With the exception of a male at Wraysbury GP in July, all the autumn records fell between August 11th and October 1st. All records are given and refer to females or immatures unless otherwise stated.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, one on Aug 21st. Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 26th, a male on Aug 20th, and singles on Sept 8th, 21st and Oct 1st. Dagnam Park, an imm male on Aug 25th, one on Aug 27th, an adult male on Sept 5th and an imm male on 24th. Fairlop Lakes CP, a male on Apr 8th and 9th, one on Aug 11th and a male on Sept 1st. Hainault Forest, singles on Aug 18th and 31st. Hornchurch CP, one on Sept 24th. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Sept 29th. Warley, one on April 8th. Weald Park, singles on Sept 21st, 25th and 28th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on April 20th. Garston, two on Sept 22nd. Rye Meads SF, singles (considered probably the same bird) on April 29th and May 5th.
- Middx Brent Res, a male on April 15th. Kempton NR, one on Aug 24th. Vicarage Farm, a male on Aug 27th, two males on Aug 31st, one from Sept 1st to 4th and a male on Sept 5th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, male on April 7th and a male trapped in July.
- Kent Woolwich Common, a male on April 16th.
- Surrey Banstead Heath, two on Sept 1st. Epsom Common, two (one male) on Sept 4th. Esher, one on Apr 27th. Molesey Heath, a male on Apr 21st. Morden Hall Park, singles on Aug 23rd and Sept 23rd. Nore Hill, Chelsham, singles from Aug 26th to Sept 6th and on 24th. South Norwood CP, one on Aug 14th. Tadworth, one on Aug 15th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Sept 16th (ARD). Victoria Park, a male on April 3rd (BGe), one on May 19th (DHar).

1137 Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Spring passage, which began with single birds at Walthamstow Reservoir and Brent Reservoir on April 28th, was typically fairly light with 17 sites producing a total of 32 birds. Most of these arrived in the seven days following Apr 28th, with a smaller peak just before the middle of May. Four were seen at Fairlop Lakes CP on May 4th, and there were five reports of two together, but the majority were singles – including the last spring record on May 25th.

As usual the species was more widespread during the autumn with a conservative estimate of at least 175 individuals passing through the London area. One at Lake Farm on July 8th was the only record that month. The next arrival was not until Aug 7th, which preceded a slow trickle of records before the main arrival of the autumn between Aug 25th and Sept 3rd. A second, smaller peak occurred near the end of Sept, with the last individual reported at the Waterworks NR on Oct 28th.

Autumn records came from 24 sites in Aug, 32 during Sept and 14 in Oct with the highest counts at Fairlop - 11 on Aug 27th and nine on Sept 28th. Elsewhere there were seven at Beech Farm on Sept 22nd and at Bushy Park on Sept 1st and 3rd.

In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 30th, three on Aug 28th and one on 30th (ARD).

1139 Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

A minimum of 15 breeding pairs was recorded at four sites, including 10 pairs at Rainham Marsh. In addition, reports of females with juveniles at two other sites early in August may possibly have indicated local breeding - although returning migrants were beginning to occur across the London area at this time. This year's figure is below last year's total of 27-28 pairs and below the average of 22 pairs during the last five years.

Outside of the breeding season, there were widespread reports of 1-3 wintering individuals (often in pairs) with slightly higher numbers at a few main sites. Overall numbers were slightly higher in the second winter period than the first.

Small numbers appeared to move through the area during late Feb and Mar, when there were numerous records from sites that had not held wintering individuals. Autumn passage, from early Aug to mid Nov, was more pronounced, reports came from 43 sites in Oct alone, (compared with 45 sites during Jan to Mar), with most localities recording their highest total for the year during the autumn migration period.

All breeding season, and Inner London, records are given below along with counts of six or more (summarised for some localities).

- | | |
|-------|--|
| Essex | Bretons Lake, one pair bred. Hornchurch CP, eight on Nov 2nd. Rainham Marsh, ten pairs bred, peak counts of 22 on Oct 1st and 15 on Dec 1st. Tylers Common, ten on Oct 10th. |
| Herts | Beech Farm, a peak of 11 on Nov 14th. Hilfield Park Res, one remained until May 13th. |
| Middx | Bushy Park, a female and four juveniles on Aug 13th, maxima of six in Jan, 12 on Oct 24th, seven on Nov 10th and eight on Dec 4th. Lake Farm, Hayes, eight on Oct 10th. |

- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, a female with two juveniles on Aug 5th. Thamesmead, one territory. Dartford Marsh, six on Oct 20th.
- Surrey Banstead Heath, one pair bred. Beddington SF, six on Dec 18th. Richmond Park, two pairs bred with a third present in May, maxima of six in Feb, 10 in Sept, 11 on Oct 17th and eight on Dec 7th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Oct 10th was the 6th park record (DTM).

1146 Wheatear***Oenanthe oenanthe***

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

The year's first Wheatear was seen at Sandown Park Race Course on Mar 13th. Eight individuals were reported from four sites on Mar 16th and birds were then reported regularly until mid May, with a few later records. In all, allowing for possible duplication caused by lingering individuals, a minimum of 211 birds were reported during the spring with peak numbers recorded at the end of Mar (notably on Mar 28th when 26 birds were reported from eight sites). A second, slightly smaller, peak occurred in the last four days of Apr. Relatively few were reported during May, with most records after the 15th falling around the weekend of May 19th – 20th. The highest single count was seven at Beddington SF on Mar 17th.

June records came from four sites, with 1-2 at Rainham Marsh, and singles at Wimbledon Common on June 1st, Beddington SF on 7th and Vicarage Farm on 18th.

Autumn passage commenced on July 29th with a juvenile seen at Queen Mother Res. The bulk of the autumn passage took place over the next seven weeks, reaching a peak during the last week in Aug. Numbers during Oct were generally low, but with an obvious small peak between Oct 9th and 13th when 17 were recorded. Records came from three sites in the first week of Nov, with the last one of the year at Queen Mother Res on Nov 6th. A total of at least 245 individuals moved through during the autumn including highs of seven at Fairlop Lakes CP on Aug 27th and six at Queen Mother Res on Aug 10th.

- In Lond Hyde Park, one on Apr 28th (DTM). Regent's Park, four on Mar 16th and 18th, two on Apr 27th, one on May 12th, two on Aug 10th and one on 27th (ARD, DJn). Victoria Park, singles on Apr 3rd (BGe) and Sept 1st (DHar).

The observers considered the following records to show characteristics of the race *leucorrhoa*, 'Greenland Wheatear':

- Herts Amwell, a male on May 20th (BR). Rye Meads, one ringed on Apr 30th (RMRG).
- Surrey Hersham GP, a female on May 16th (DMH). London Wetland Centre, one on Sept 26th (BPA,FJM)
- In Lond Regent's Park, four on Apr 27th and five on 29th (ARD,DJn).

1186 Ring Ouzel***Turdus torquatus***

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

An unusual record during the first months of the year was the London Area's fifth wintering record - following close on the heels of the fourth in 2000. This year's was a 1st winter male in a Kingston-upon-Thames garden on several occasions between January 25th and March 26th. The third wintering record was also a garden bird – in Cheshunt (Herts) in 1996.

The rest of the year's records fell on more typical dates, with six spring records between Apr 1st and 30th, and 16 in the autumn between Aug 4th and Nov 11th. The majority of the autumn records were during Oct. All records are given.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, a fem/imm on Nov 2nd (AMi). Chingford Plain, two on Oct 29th with one on 30th and 31st (AJG, KM *et al*). Dagenham Chase, two males from Apr 3rd to 17th, with one until 21st (KBa *et al*), a male on Aug 4th (MKD). Stubbers OPC, a male on Oct 28th (DMo *et al*). Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 1st (CW_r *et al*). Yardley Hill, one on Sept 27th (AMi).
- Middx Brent Res, a male on Apr 14th (ASMS), Bushy Park, a male on Apr 30th (PGr) and four on Oct 28th (mo).
- Kent Oxleas Wood, a male from Oct 2nd to 12th (JRe).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one from Oct 1st to 2nd, and a male on Nov 11th (BBR). London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 28th (NPS). Kingston-upon-Thames, one visiting a garden from Jan 25th to Mar 26th (AFu *et al*).
- In Lond Regent's Park, three on Oct 18th (ARD, DJn).

1187 Blackbird***Turdus merula***

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Some observers reported an increase in the numbers of breeding territories compared to last year, although others reported a slight drop suggesting little overall change. Several reports of apparent migrants were received for the period between mid-Oct and mid-Dec, including 70 in Regent's Park on Oct 18th. Significant breeding census figures, and other counts, are given with numbers of territories/pairs in brackets;

- Essex Hornchurch CP (25). Rainham Marsh (13). R. Roding, Ilford to sewage works, (30+, 36+ in 2000). Sewardstone Marsh (10). Waterworks NR (9, 5 in 2000).
- Middx Bushy Park, (18–20, 17-19 in 2000). Horsenden Hill, 54 on Oct 28th. Rammey Marsh (15).
- Surrey Ashted Common (29). Bookham Common (26). Cannon Hill Common (12, 14 in 2000). Morden Hall Park (25-30, 33 in 2000).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (8). Grand Union Canal, (15). Paddington Green W2, (6, 4 in 2000). Regent's Park (c50). St James Park (8, 7-9 in 2000). Victoria Park, Hackney, 59 in June.

1198 Fieldfare***Turdus pilaris***

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Like last year, although widespread across the area, Fieldfares were generally present in fairly low numbers during 2001.

During the first winter period only seven sites reported flocks of 100+ in Jan, seven in Feb and two in Mar. The maximum at this time was a flock that peaked at 520 at Park Farm, on Jan 27th. Almost all Fieldfares left the area during Mar leaving only stragglers present in Apr, when nine records totalled only 25 individuals. The maximum in a single flock was seven at Berwick Ponds on Apr 14th, with the last bird a single at Brent Res, on Apr 26th.

The first of the autumn were seen on Sept 16th, when there were 16 at Fairlop Lakes CP, and a single bird was in Regent's Park. 70 were seen in Regent's Park on Sept 25th, and 185 on Oct 2nd – one of only two 100+ counts reported during the month, but in general few reports were received before the second half of Oct. Many sites reported their first birds over the weekend of Oct 27th and 28th, when the species finally became more widespread. Three figure counts came from 12 sites in Nov, with half of these associated with a movement of several thousand on the 10th and 11th. This included the year's highest count, 1,270 over the London Wetland Centre on the 10th, as well as two additional counts exceeding 600 and many smaller totals. Numbers during Dec were lower with flocks of 100+ reported from only four sites.

Three figure flocks and Inner London records are summarised below.

Essex	Berwick Ponds, 150 on Feb 19th. Bulphan Fen, 130 on Dec 14th. Bush Farm, 146 on Nov 4th, 154 on Dec 2nd. Doddinghurst, 250 on Jan 28th. Fishers Green and Holyfield Hall Farm area, 200+ in Nov, 100+ in Dec. Navestock, 100 on Nov 15th. Nazeing GP, 200 on Jan 6th. Roydon GP, 150 on Jan 14th. Waltham Marsh, 105 on Feb 18th.
Herts	Batlers Green, Radlett, 200 on Dec 11th. Croxley Moor, 100 on Oct 27th. Rye Meads, a max of 681 on Nov 10th.
Middx	Bedfont Lakes CP, 220 W on Nov 11th. Brent Res, 143 on Nov 10th. Fernyhill Farm, 100+ on Jan 24th. Horsenden Hill, 125 on Nov 10th. Stanwell Moor, 130 on Nov 12th.
Bucks	Old Slade Lake, 120 on Mar 23rd. Woodlands Park GP, 150 on Feb 23rd.
Kent	Dartford Marsh, 118 on Jan 2nd. Sevenoaks WR, 150 on Feb 21st. Swanscombe Marsh, 112 on Feb 11th.
Surrey	Limpsfield, 250 on Mar 18th. London Wetland Centre, 1,270 WNW on Nov 10th 283 W on 11th and 192 W on 14th. Park Farm, Chessington, 500+ in Jan and Feb. Rushett Farm, 220 on Jan 13th. South Norwood Lake, 620 W on Nov 11th.
In Lond	Capital Wharf, two on Jan 14th. Paddington Green W2, up to 12 between Oct 27th and Nov 9th, with 67 NNW on Nov 2nd. Regent's Park, three on Apr 10th, max of 70 in Sept and 185 in Oct.

1200 Song Thrush***Turdus philomelos***

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

As is the case with many other birds that people are used to seeing regularly, this species is obviously under recorded. When observers do report singing males or breeding territories each year comparisons can be made with previous figures and this allows fluctuations in the population to be monitored. Overall the London Area breeding population appears to be stable.

There were a number of reports of increased numbers or small overhead movements, during the autumn and winter – including movements on Oct 27th and 28th that coincided with a movement of Fieldfares and Redwings.

Breeding records are summarised, with significant breeding concentrations given (territories/singing males in brackets). Selected high counts and evidence of movements are also given with all Inner London records summarised.

- Essex 107 territories/singing males reported from 24 sites. Barking Park (5, 6 in 2000). Copped Hall, a peak of 52 on Dec 13th. Fishers Green (5, 7 in 2000). Greenway (10, 9 in 2000). Hornchurch CP (8, 12 in 2000). Purfleet (9, 11 in 2000). R. Roding – between Ilford and Sewage Works, (21+, 22+ in 2000). Sewardstone Marsh (5, 3 in 2000). South Park, Ilford (4, 3 in 2000). Valentines Park (6, 6 in 2000).
- Herts 28 territories/singing males reported from 11 sites. Amwell (8, 3 in 2000). Cassiobury Park (7). Croxley Moor, 50 on Oct 27th.
- Middx 54-55 territories/singing males reported from 13 sites. Bentley Priory (6). Bushy Park (9-10, same as 2000). Horsenden Hill (11, 10 in 2000), 22 flew over on Oct 28th. Mudchute City Farm, '14 greyish birds, presumed immigrants' on Oct 18th. Rammey Marsh (9). Wormwood Scrubs (6+).
- Bucks Denham Court, 15 on May 21st.
- Kent 14 territories/singing males reported from 8 sites. Maryon Wilson Park (3+, 3 in 2000).
- Surrey Ashted Common (6). Beddington SF, 20 flew S on Oct 14th. Bookham Common (13). Hersham GP, 31 on Dec 16th. Limpsfield Chart (11, 9 in 2000). London Wetland Centre (5). Morden Hall Park (10, 12 in 2000).
- In Lond 31 territories/ singing males reported from seven sites. Grand Union Canal (3). Green Park, one singing on Apr 24th. Hyde Park, one on Jan 6th, one singing on Apr 8th. Kensington Gardens (1). Paddington Green, singles on Sept 26th and 28th and Oct 18th. Regent's Canal at St Johns Wood (1, same as 2000), 3 on Dec 12th. Regent's Park (22, same as 2000), 45 on Oct 18th. St James Park (2, 3 in 2000). Victoria Park Hackney, 2 in June and July.

1201 Redwing***Turdus iliacus***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Redwing numbers during the year followed a similar pattern to the numbers of Fieldfare, although autumn arrival commenced earlier and the passage movement in mid Nov was less pronounced. In general it was a very unremarkable year for this species.

Like Fieldfare, Redwings were widespread in both winters but not very numerous. There were just five flocks of a hundred or more reported in Jan, two in Feb and three in Mar. The last bird in the spring was at Wimbledon Common on Apr 16th, with nine additional reports, totalling 17 birds, received for Apr (most of these occurred in the first week).

Autumn arrivals commenced with six at Waltham Abbey on Sept 8th. 22 further reports, of up to 20 individuals were received for the period between the 18th and the end of the month. Numbers picked up during Oct, with seven three figure flocks reported, although they were certainly not exceptional. Eight flocks of 100+ were recorded in Nov, with three in Dec.

Movements were noted at various times during Oct and Nov, with some of the largest movements coinciding with movements of Fieldfares at the end of Oct and on Nov 10th –11th. 1,000 over Morden Hall Park on Oct 30th was the year's highest count for this species, with the next highest being 435 over South Norwood Lake on Nov 11th. Counts of a hundred or over, and all Inner London records are given or summarised.

- Essex Bulphan Fen, 150 on Dec 14th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 100+ on Nov 30th.
 Herts Croxley Moor, 100 on Oct 27th. Rye Meads SF, a Nov maximum of 159 on 11th. St Albans, 120 on Mar 2nd. Tykeswater Lake, 100 on Mar 13th.
 Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, 170 W on Nov 11th. Brent Res, 300 on Oct 28th. Hampstead Heath, 300 on Oct 6th. Hampton Park Court, 400 on Feb 4th. Mill Hill, 100+ in the grounds of St Vincent School on Jan 4th.
 Bucks Old Slade Lake, 125 on Jan 16th. Wraysbury GP, 100+ on Nov 11th.
 Kent Abbey Hill Park, Sidcup, 100 on Nov 11th. Chipstead Lake, 100 on Mar 3rd.
 Surrey Croham Hurst, 100+ S on Oct 13th. Epsom Common, 200 on Dec 24th. Epsom Downs, 100 on Jan 1st. Horton CP, 120 on Jan 22nd. London Wetland Centre, 207 W on Nov 10th and 172 W on 11th. Morden Hall Park, 1,000 W/NW on Oct 30th, with 400 on Nov 10th, 150 on 11th and 150 on 18th. Nore Hill, 120 on Oct 20th. Park Farm, Chessington, 100 on Jan 14th and 120 on Dec 9th. South Norwood Lake, 435 W on Nov 11th. Wimbledon Common, 100 on Feb 18th.
 In Lond Kensington Gardens, four on Mar 13th. Millbank Tower area, 40 NW on Nov 9th. Paddington Green, 13 NW on Jan 3rd, one on Apr 4th, night migrants heard on Oct 13th and 17th, eight SW on Nov 4th and 60-70 N on 15th. Regent's Park, one regularly from Jan-Mar, with 70 on Mar 29th, one on Apr 14th; two on Oct 4th were the autumn's first, with 50 on 17th and 100 on 18th. Victoria Park, 34 on Dec 2nd.

1202 Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Status: common breeding resident.

Some sectors received better coverage of breeding territories than others, with little change apparent in the population (where comparison was possible). Breeding counts are summarised, with significant breeding concentrations (territories/pairs in brackets) and some of the more notable counts of post breeding flocks or other gatherings given

- Essex 39-40 territories/singing males were reported from 18 sites. Bedfords Park (3). Dagnam Park (6). Havering CP (4). Rainham Marsh, a max of 30 on Sept 2nd. South Park, Ilford (3, same as 2000). Thorndon Park, 50 on Aug 8th. Valentines Park (6+, same as 2000).
- Herts No comments on breeding pairs received. Coursers Farm, 32 on Aug 20th.
- Middx 17 territories/singing males were reported from seven sites. Bushy Park (3, 2 in 2000). Hampton Court Park (3). Horsenden Hill (4, 3 in 2000). Osterley Park (3). Trent Park, 28 on July 19th was the max count for the sector.
- Bucks Three territories at Denham Court was the only breeding record received.
- Kent Bexley Wood (1). Charlton (2). No other breeding pairs were reported. Max counts were 15 at Crofton Heath on July 9th and Sevenoaks WR on Aug 8th.
- Surrey 15 territories/singing males were reported from seven sites. Bookham Common (3). Nore Hill, Chelsham, 38 on Sept 6th. Wimbledon Common (5).
- In Lond 12 territories/singing males were reported from seven sites. Goldhurst Terrace NW6 (1). Hyde Park (1), seven on Jan 6th. Kensington Gardens, up to two during Mar to May, 10 on Aug 27th. Limehouse, five on Sept 29th. Paddington Green W2 (1 but nest abandoned), six on Nov 11th. Pimlico (1). Regent's Park (6), seven on Sept 2nd. St James Park (1). Victoria Park, 18 in July. Victoria St SW1, a pair on May 10th. Victoria Tower Gardens, a pair on Jan 16th, one on June 5th. Whitehall SW1, one on Mar 20th, two on May 10th, four on July 18th.

1220 Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

Status: scarce migrant, winter visitor and breeding species subject to periodic colonisation.

- Essex Hall Marsh, one singing on May 3rd (SC), then presumably the same recorded on six further dates to June 16th (AGr,SRH,IWo).
- Herts Amwell GP, 'presumed female' from Oct 24th to Dec 31st at least (BR et al). Broxbourne GP, singing male from Jan 28th to Mar 18th (BR). Cheshunt GP, singing male from Apr 18th to June 23rd, with two birds recorded on at least Apr 19th and June 5th; breeding suspected (mo). Rye House Marsh, one on Jan 14th (SC et al).
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, one (considered the same) on Oct 24th and Dec 15th (BEW).

A good year for this unmistakable songster, with a probable breeding pair in the Lea Valley. It is traditional to forecast the comeback of the Cetti's Warbler in the wake of generally mild winters, but the species is not necessarily so predictable: for example, 1999 was a good year and featured almost-certain nesting in Herts, yet 2000 produced just a solitary record.

1236 Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

One at Wraysbury GP on Apr 18th was the first, then at least six territories were reported in the breeding season. Unusually, there was a September record this year, at Upminster. All records are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one pair bred (KBa,PSt); a different bird present on July 8th (KBa). Fishers Green, one on Apr 21st and 27th, May 7th and 17th (ACI *et al*). Hornchurch CP, three territories in the breeding season (DMo), and final singles on July 18th and 25th (LH). Netherhall GP, a 'presumed pair' on May 29th (SRH). Rainham Marsh, one singing on June 12th (PSt). Upminster, two territories at Tyler's Common, with a late single on Sept 6th (CRJ). Walthamstow Res, one on May 28th (SRH).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Apr 21st (GJW). Bowyer's GP, one on Apr 20th (DGDL) and May 5th (DAn,RA). Cheshunt GP, one singing at Friday Lake on Aug 5th (RPe). Potters Crouch, one singing from June 11th-23rd (HBC).
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Apr 26th (JAS). Wraysbury GP, first on Apr 18th, then regular to the end of May, with a maximum of five singing on May 2nd, and the last three on June 16th (RRG,JAS *et al*); six birds were ringed (RRG).
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, one singing on July 1st (MLn). Woolwich Common, one on May 9th-11th (JTi).
- Surrey Bookham Common, one on Apr 29th (CP,CRP).

1243 Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
 Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The Sedge Warbler is one of our many summer visitors to winter in the Sahel area of Africa, and BTO studies have shown that fluctuations in the UK population are clearly linked to variations in winter rainfall in that region. In our Area, it remains a common species, with healthy populations at traditional sites. This year, however, featured many fewer territories than usual at Rainham Marsh, which has produced three-figure counts in recent years.

Counts of ten or more territories or singing males, and all Inner London records, are shown below. The first bird of the spring was at Horton GP on Mar 29th, and the last of the autumn was at the London Wetland Centre on Oct 18th. A singing bird at Brimsdown (Middx) on June 18th was heard to mimic a Common Tern!

- Essex Fishers Green (14). Hornchurch CP (19). Rainham Marsh (35). Walthamstow Marsh (24). Walthamstow Res (27).
- Herts Amwell GP (38). Cheshunt GP (45). Rye Meads SF (34).
- Middx Stanwell Moor (10).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 40+ on May 5th presumably included many migrants, since only 12 were present on June 9th (RRG).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (14).
- In Lond Camley Street Natural Park, one on May 15th (DTM). Regent's Park, one on Apr 12th, two on May 15th and singles on May 16th and 20th (ARD, DJn).

1248 Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
 Status: vagrant.

- Essex Canary Wharf, one from Oct 6th-28th (AMi,KM *et al*).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, this is the first record for the LNHS Area. The London list is acquiring new warblers annually at the moment: we have added Paddyfield in 1999, Radde's in 2000 and now Blyth's Reed! This is an amazing sequence for an 'inland county'. Unfortunately, the Blyth's Reed Warbler turned up at a sensitive site and could not be enjoyed by a large audience.

1250

Marsh Warbler***Acrocephalus palustris***

Status: rare summer visitor and passage migrant.



- Essex Site A, one pair bred, with the last seen on July 2nd (KBa,VHF *et al*). Rainham Marsh, one from May 26th to June 12th (DMo *et al*).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one pair bred, raising at least one young (RKa,JPPW *et al*).

Two breeding pairs – both at well-watched localities – are most welcome, especially after only single records in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

1251

Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

This common warbler can breed (often at high density) wherever there is a small stand of reed. This year, for example, two pairs attempted to nest in Regent's Park, one successfully: the first breeding record there since 1879! By contrast, at Old Slade Lake (Bucks), three were on territory in July but then deserted when their reedbed was drained. Note that there were no counts this year from the traditionally important sites at Rainham Marsh or in the Ingrebourne Valley.

Totals of ten or more territories or singing males (numbers in brackets), and all Inner London records, are given. Extreme dates were Apr 7th at Swanscombe Marsh and Oct 29th at Hall Marsh.

- Essex Hornchurch CP (22). R. Roding, from Ilford to Barking (51). Walthamstow Marsh (16). Waterworks NR (16).
- Herts Amwell GP (36). Cheshunt GP (52). Hilfield Park Res (13). Rye Meads SF (59), with up to 25 present in Aug and ten still on Sept 22nd. Stocker's Lake (13).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, 'only 10-12 pairs in main colony due to poor reed growth'. Middlesex Filter Beds (15).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 11 on Aug 4th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (15). Ruxley GP (12). Swanscombe Marsh (81), 'many young seen in July'. Thamesmead (33).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (73).
- In Lond Regent's Park (2) (ARD, DJo). Rotherhithe (1), at Lavender Pond (DTM). Victoria Park, Hackney, one on May 15th (DHar).

1262 Dartford Warbler

Sylvia undata

Status: rare but annual passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional breeder.

- Middx Bushy Park, a female from Jan 1st to Feb 14th, plus a male on Jan 3rd and 13th; one on several dates from Nov 17th to Dec 1st and presumably the same on Dec 22nd and 29th (mo).
- Bucks Black Park, three (one male) on Jan 7th (CLa).
- Surrey Locality A, one on Jan 14th, a singing male on Apr 8th, Apr 22nd and June 9th, with other singles on May 7th and 28th. Locality B, two on Jan 7th, then on Oct 25th '5-7 in the area where they have occurred in the breeding season within the past two years.' Nonsuch Park, one from Nov 5th to Dec 7th (BTt, IPW). Richmond Park, a male on Feb 18th (MBce). South Norwood CP, one on Dec 30th and 31st (JBed, JBi) was thought to have been present since Dec 20th.

A typical set of records for recent years. Happily, the Dartford Warbler is no longer a rarity in London, and so the LNHS Records Committee has **removed it forthwith** from the list of species that require a description or notes for publication in this report. However, please do continue to report all sightings.

1274 Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

There was an unusual early arrival of Lesser Whitethroats with singles being seen on Apr 6th (Ruxley GP), 7th (Hornchurch CP), and 8th (Bromley GP). Several others were reported in the second week of April but most regular sites didn't get their first ones until later in the month.

About 93 singing males/territories were noted, exactly the same as in 2000. This should be taken as a population estimate as several sites reported singing birds one day only. A notable return passage occurred towards the end of Aug then tailed off in Sept. In Oct there were two on the Isle of Dogs on 2nd and one at Beddington SF on 6th and a very late individual at Wraysbury GP on Nov 11th.

High counts (number of territories in brackets) and Inner London records are listed below.

- Essex Dagnam Park (4). Fishers Green, eight singing males on May 7th. Hornchurch CP (6). Sewardstone Marsh (4).
- Herts Rye Meads SF, six on May 5th and Aug 27th, eight on Sept 1st.
- Middx Horsenden Hill, seven on Aug 24th. Vicarage Farm, nine on Aug 20th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 10 on Aug 25th, 12 ringed in September.
- Surrey Ashted Common (4, one in 1998). Beddington SF, six on May 2nd. Bookham Common (4, none in 2000).
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, one singing on May 3rd. Paddington Green W2, one singing on May 3rd. Regent's Park, 10 seen between April 22nd and June 1st, two territories held for one week.

1275 Common Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

There were three early records in the first week of Apr: Horton GP on 3rd, Bedfont Lakes CP on 6th and Vicarage Farm on 7th and then a slow build up for the rest of the month. Several sites reported much higher numbers than previous years, e.g. 138 territories at Hornchurch CP compared to 92 in 2000. Autumn passage was unremarkable except for the two exceptionally late records; after Sept the only records were singles at Horsenden Hill on Oct 4th, Oxhey Park on Oct 23rd, then Beddington SF on Dec 2nd and Island Barn Res on Dec 17th.

High counts (number of territories/pairs in brackets) and Inner London records are listed below.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh (25+). Bush Farm (12). Cranham Marsh (11). Dagnam Park (12). Fishers Green (20). Greenway (12). Hornchurch CP (138). Rainham Marsh (50+). R. Roding, Barking (30). Roding Valley NR (10). Walthamstow Marsh (28). Waterworks NR, 25 on May 12th.
- Herts The highest sector count was 15 at both Croxley Moor on Aug 24th and Rye Meads SF in August.
- Middx Brent Res, 10 singing on Apr 26th. Horsenden Hill (13, 9 in 2000). Rammey Marsh (31).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 25+ on May 12th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (12). Foots Cray Meadows (12). Hall Place Gardens (14). Swanscombe Marsh (54). Thamesmead (36).
- Surrey Bookham Common (35, 30 in 2000). Wimbledon Common (33, 22 in 2000)

In Lond Chalk Farm, one singing for a week along the canal. Hyde Park, a singing male on May 12th and 13th and a pair on June 11th. Limehouse, one on July 21st. Regent's Park, two on May 12th and 15th, one on 18th. Two on Aug 21st and 22nd with one to 25th, three on 27th and one on Sept 3rd. Surrey Docks, one on May 22nd.

1276 Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

There were two early records in the first half of April, at Epsom on 2nd and Wraysbury GP on 7th, with the next one at Regent's Park on 19th. It wasn't until the last week of April and into May before most sites reported their first arrival. Breeding numbers appeared to be up on 2000. There were two good counts on Aug 11th with 40 at Wraysbury GP and 20 at Rye Meads SF, both reported by the local ringing groups suggesting that this species may have been undetected at other sites. The last ones were at Hilfield Park Res and Bushy Park on Sept 27th

High counts (number of territories/pairs in brackets) and Inner London records are listed below.

Essex Dagnam Park (4). Epping Forest, Furze Plain (6+), Long Running (6+).
 Herts Cheshunt GP (12). Hilfield Park Res (4). Rye Meads SF, 20 on Aug 11th.
 Middx Bentley Priory (4). Broadwater Lake (15).
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 25+ on May 19th, 40+ on Aug 11th.
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, five in May.
 Surrey Bookham Common (29, 23 in 2000). Princes Coverts (7). Wimbledon Common (15, 9 in 2000)
 In Lond Hyde Park, one on May 8th. Kensington Gardens, one on May 14th. Regent's Park, one on Apr 19th, three on 30th; one from May 15th to 18th; singles on Aug 8th, 18th and 25th, two on 27th and one on 30th. St James's Park, one on May 16th.

1277 Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

Over-wintering birds were still present in the middle of March and migrants were generally reported from the last week of March onwards although many sites did not see their first ones until April. Breeding reports were mixed with some sites reporting decreases and some reporting increases. High counts (number of territories/pairs in brackets) and Inner London records are listed below,

Essex Cranham Marsh (9). Dagnam Park (15). Fishers Green, 13 on May 5th. Hornchurch CP (27). Stubbers OPC (8). Waterworks NR (8).
 Herts Cheshunt GP (29). Croxley Moor, 15 on Sept 27th. Hilfield Park Res (8). Rye Meads SF, 40 on Apr 30th, 15 on Sept 22nd.

- Middx Brent Res, 12 singing on Apr 22nd. Bushy Park, 11-12 pairs bred - 'a definite decline'. Horsenden Hill (10). Rammey Marsh (15).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 10+ singing on Apr 28th, 40+ on Aug 11th and 50+ on Sept 1st.
- Kent Foots Cray Woods (c20). Ruxley GP, 10 singing on Apr 28th. Sevenoaks WR, 12 in Apr and May.
- Surrey Bookham Common (28, 25 in 2000). Morden Hall Park (14). Nonsuch Park, 17 singing on Apr 27th. Wimbledon Common (100+).
- In Lond Aberdare Gardens, NW6, one on May 3rd. Camley Street Natural Park (1). Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park to Westbourne Green (4). Greville Place, NW6, one singing from Mar 29th to Apr 1st. Hyde Park, singles on Apr 7th, May 19th and Oct 11th. Kensington Gardens, three males on May 20th, one pair bred. Limehouse, one on June 28th. Regent's Park, (15), one on Feb 13th. St James's Park (1). Victoria Park, two on May 19th.

The table below shows the number of birds recorded in each sector during the winter months. There was a considerable increase over 2000 when, for example a total of 24 was recorded in Dec compared to 56 this year. By far the largest number were reported in gardens in Surrey.

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	Inner London	Total
Jan	1	2	5	2	1	40	0	51
Feb	2	3	4	1	2	24	1	37
Nov	1	13	3	0	1	12	0	30
Dec	4	6	7	1	0	38	0	56

1300 Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Status: very rare autumn migrant.

- Essex Waterworks NR, one on Oct 28th (GJ).

The 13th record for London and the first since one at Hainault Forest in 1996. Of the 12 that occurred in Sept or Oct, interestingly, the first five occurred south of the Thames whilst the most recent ones have all been north of the Thames.

1308 Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Status: scarce passage migrant and irregular breeding summer visitor.

- Essex Long Running, Epping Forest, one singing on May 18th (SRH). South Weald CP, singles on Aug 11th, 12th and 20th (CJ).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 29th (HBC).
- Kent Ruxley GP, one on Aug 29th (GCN).
- Surrey Bookham Common, one on Apr 28th (mo).
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Aug 10th and 25th (ARD,DJn). Victoria Park, one on July 31st (BGe).

Just nine migrants reported, probably the lowest ever. Only 10 years ago, there were still three pairs breeding and at least 23 migrants, many of which were heard singing in Spring.

1311 Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor; increasingly widespread in winter.

The first significant passage occurred on the last two days of March and first two days of April. Where comparison was possible, most sites reported an increase from 2000. Unlike last year there were no significant peaks noted in Autumn, although a count of 50+ at Wraysbury GP on Sept 8th was notable.

High counts (number of territories/pairs in brackets) and Inner London records are listed below.

Essex	Cornmill Meadows (7). Dagnam Park (9). Hornchurch CP (7), 10 on Aug 13th. Walthamstow Marsh , 10 Oct 3 rd . Waterworks NR, 10 on Mar 19th and Oct 28th.
Herts	Amwell GP, 11 on Mar 31st. Cheshunt GP (20). Hilfield Park Res (6). North Mymms Park, 12 on Sept 18th. Rye Meads SF, 17 on Mar 24th, 20 on Sept 29th. Slipe Lane GP, 10 on Apr 8th.
Middx	Bentley Priory (8). Brent Res, 13 on Aug 18th and 15 on Sept 25th. Bushy Park (7-8, 'a decline'). Hampstead Heath, 10 on Aug 4th. Hampton Court Park (6). Horsenden Hill (5), 13 on Apr 7th. Perivale Wood (5).
Bucks	Wraysbury GP, nine singing on Apr 9th, 50+ on Sept 8th.
Kent	Foots Cray Woods (10). Sevenoaks WR, 12 on Apr 16th and Sept 1st.
Surrey	Ashted Common (15 on CBC, 10 in 1998). Barwell Court Farm (5-6). Bookham Common (19, 11 in 2000). Cannon Hill Common (3, none in 2000). Epsom Common (10), 20 on Sept 2nd. Epsom Downs, 15 on Sept 9th. Horton CP, 15 singing on Apr 1st. Limpsfield Chart (8, 11 in 2000), 16 on Sept 2nd. London Wetland Centre, 14 on Sept 22nd. Molesey Heath, 15 on Apr 2nd. Nonsuch Park, nine singing on Apr 27th. Princes Coverts (9). R.Mole, West Molesey, 10 singing on Apr 8th. South Norwood Lake, 20+ on Aug 4th.
In Lond	Reported from Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Limehouse, Paddington Green W2, Regent's Canal at St. Johns Wood, Regent's Park, St James's Park and Victoria Park but no breeding reported; the maximum count was 20+ at Regent's Park on Sept 12th.

The table below shows the number of birds recorded in each sector during the winter months. There was a notable drop from 70 in Dec 2000 to 51 in Jan 2001.

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	Inner London	Total
Jan	8	12	16	2	6	5	0	51
Feb	8	11	6	0	3	3	0	31
Nov	8	4	17	3	4	8	1	45
Dec	13	9	13	5	5	18	0	63

Birds showing characteristics of 'Siberian Chiffchaff' *P.c. tristis* were reported from Amwell GP on Jan 7th and 14th, Dagenham Chase from Nov 27th to 29th, and a singing bird at Walton Res on Apr 16th.

Also one at Ruxley GP in Nov "appeared to be one of the eastern races." One at London Wetland Centre from Nov 25th to Dec 6th showed characteristics of *P.c. tristis/abietinus*.

1312 Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor

Spring started early for this species with 15 records in Mar, compared to seven in 2000; the first one was at Waterworks NR on Mar 19th, a week before the earliest one last year. There was a strong passage in April with a lot of singing birds, many of which were clearly migrants. Another mixed bag of breeding results, several well monitored sites reported increases but other sites reported no breeding attempts at all. Several good counts were made in Autumn, peaking with 40+ at Wraysbury GP. As usual most had departed by the end of Sept but there were 10 birds in Oct with the last on the very late date of Oct 28th at Surbiton. High counts (number of territories/pairs in brackets) and Inner London records are listed below.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Essex | Cornmill Meadows (7 in the Arboretum). Dagenham Chase, 15 singing on Apr 27th. Dagnam Park (8). Epping Forest, Furze Plain (8+). Fairlop Lakes CP (15). Hornchurch CP (19). Roding Valley NR (8). Stubbers OPC (5). Waterworks NR (7). Weald Park, 15 on Aug 18th and 25 on 20th. |
| Herts | Amwell GP (8). Bowyer's GP, 16 on Apr 13th. Hilfield Park Res (4). |
| Middx | Bedfont Lakes CP, 12 on Apr 17th. Brent Res, 10 on Aug 23rd. Bushy Park, up to 12 on Aug 17th. |
| Bucks | Wraysbury GP, 25+ on May 19th, 30+ on June 30th and 40+ on Aug 11th. |
| Kent | Ruxley GP, seven on Apr 6th. Sevenoaks WR, nine in Apr. Thamesmead (7). |
| Surrey | Ashted Common (19 on CBC, 10 in 1998). Bookham Common (14, 15 in 2000). Horton CP (7). Limpsfield Chart (18, 16 in 2000). Wimbledon Common (10, 6 in 2000). |
| In Lond | Reported from Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Paddington Green W2, Regent's Park, St James's Park, Tate Modern and Victoria Park but no breeding reported; the maximum count was 20+ at Regent's Park on Apr 6th and Aug 10th, 25th and 27th. |

1314 Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

For one reason or another only a bare minimum of 94 territories or singing males was recorded this year compared to 131 in 2000 and 168 in 1999. Variable coverage and significant under recording throughout but particularly from a number of key sectors, are possible factors which prevent a more accurate assessment being made.

With respect to autumn and winter sightings it was an extremely disappointing year with very few substantial influxes being noted from site totals reported. The best being: Regent's Park, 24 on Oct 18th and Monkton Hadley Common, 18 on Jan 16th with most other site recorders struggling to get into double figures. While these seasonal totals were disappointing they are nevertheless consistent with a wider recent trend noted over the last two years. This follows a pattern for progressive decline, with fewer large counts now becoming the norm.

Breeding season records (numbers of pairs/singing males in brackets), peak counts and a summary of Inner London records are given.

Essex	Cornmill Meadows, Arboretum (1). Dagnam Park (6). Epping Forest, Warren Pond, (2+). Hornchurch CP (1).
Herts	Abbots Langley (bred). Aldenham church (1). Bricket Wood area (bred). Bushey Mill Watford (1). Croxley Hall GPs (1). Garston area (bred). Hilfield Park Res (6). How Wood (3). Hunton Bridge (2). North Watford Cemetery (1). Radlett area (3). Wall Hall (1). Watford Link Road (1). Wormley, West End, (1).
Middx	Bushy Park (1). Hampstead Cemetery (3). Hampton Court Park (1). Northwood, Riverside Club Lake (1). Osterley Park (1).
Bucks	Black Park, no reports this year.
Kent	Bexley Wood (1). Crofton Heath (1). Orpington, All Saints churchyard (1).
Surrey	Epsom Common (3). Esher, Hawkhill Way Grds (1-2). Limpsfield Chart (8). London Wetland Centre, surrounding area, (2). Molesey Heath (1). Morden Hall Park (2-3). Oxted (1). Park Hill Park (1). R. Thames, Kingston (1). Sanderstead Area (10). Wandsworth Common (1). Wimbledon Common (10-19).
In Lond	Buckingham Palace Gardens (1). Kensington Gardens, one with deformed upper bill, three times longer than bottom, decurved and with bill held open constantly. Paddington Green W2, singles on nine dates between Sept 17th and Dec 6th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood (1). Regent's Park (4), 24 on Oct 24th.

1315 Firecrest

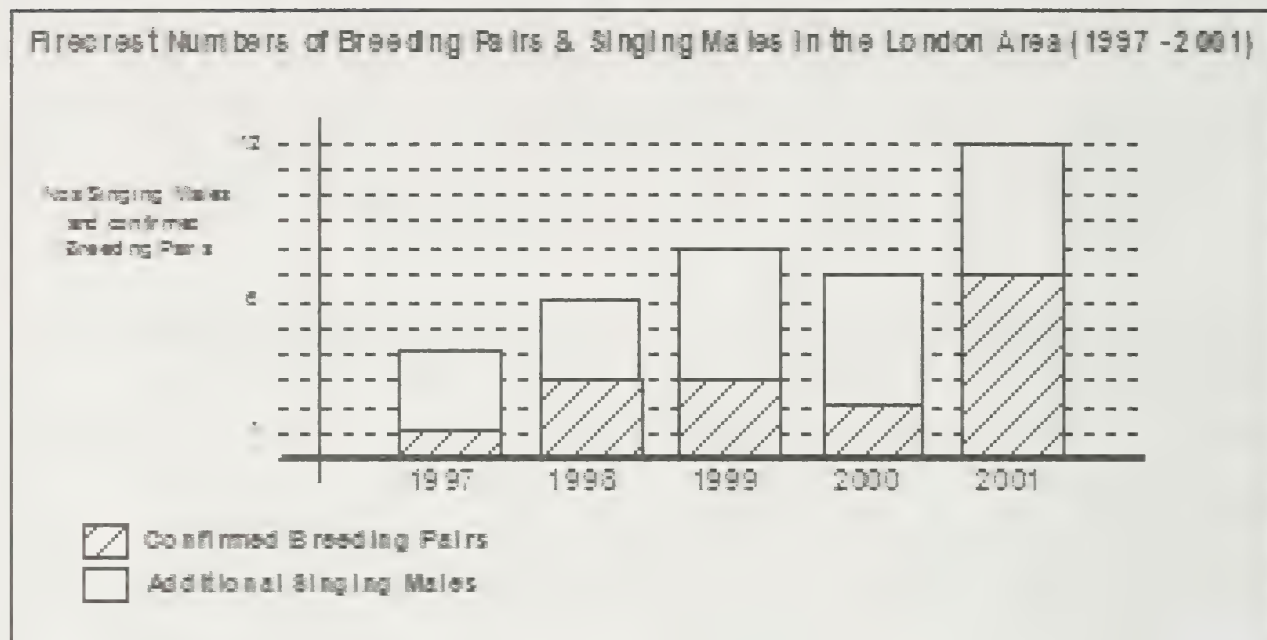
Regulus ignicapilla

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

Records this year of singing males and activity indicative of breeding came from eight locations. The stronghold sectors of Essex and Herts again featured prominently, where one pair was definitely confirmed to have bred successfully with a further six pairs present and well established, making this one of the best years for the species in the London area.

The following graph shows detail of breeding numbers / singing males and the progress the species has made over the last five years.

Allowing for the possibility of some duplication, spring and autumn passage and over-wintering numbers were fairly consistent with the previous year's totals. Similarly, over-wintering numbers during both winter periods were a shade higher than 2000 records at 14-15 for the first winter period (Jan-Feb)



and 15-16 for the second winter period (Nov-Dec). All records are included but are summarised for the main sites and locations (numbers of confirmed pairs / territories in brackets).

- Essex** Horton GP, a female on Mar 27th. Bedfords Park, one on April 7th. Copped Hall (1). Dagenham Chase, one on Dec 17th. Epping Forest, The Warren, 1-2 singing males on June 1st. Epping Forest, Jacks Hill, one on Dec 9th. Fishers Green, one on Dec 2nd. Gilbert Slade, one on Dec 29th. Harold Hill, one on Jan 5th and 11th. Havering CP (1). Havering-atte-Bower (1). Hooks Marsh, one on Nov 24th and 29th. Hornchurch CP, two on Feb 22nd. Ongar Park Wood (2). Warley Place NR, one on Jan 3rd. Woodford, Hatch Path, one on Nov 2nd and 6th.
- Herts** Broxbourne Woods (2). Hilfield Park Res, one singing male on May 10th and one on Sept 22nd. Post Wood, one from Feb 11th-12th. Rye Meads SF, one on Feb 9th.
- Middx** Bedfont Lakes CP, one from Mar 24th to 29th. Bentley Priory, one on Feb 25th. Brent Res, singles from Mar 8th to 11th and on Nov 3rd. Enfield, one at Turkey Brook on May 11th. Glebelands NR, a singing male on May 15th. Hampstead Heath, one on Sept 22nd. Middlesex FB, one on April 1st. Trent Park, one on Mar 29th. Turkey Brook, one on May 11th.
- Bucks** Horton GP, a female on March 27th.
- Kent** Belverdere, one on Dec 12th. Lamorbey Park, one on Feb 23rd. Sevenoaks WR, one on Jan 17th.
- Surrey** Carshalton, one on March 25th. Ewell, one on Jan 13th. London Wetland Centre, one on Sept 25th. Merton Park, one on Jan 20th. R.Hogsmill, West Ewell, one on Jan 7th and 13th. Sanderstead, one flew into a window on Oct 28th. Shirley, two in Dec. Stambourne Woodlands, three on Oct 23rd, two on Oct 27th, one Nov 2nd, four on 3rd, one on 9th, and between 1-3 throughout Dec. Wimbledon Common, one on April 13th.
- In Lond** Regent's Park, one on Mar 12th, and Sept 29th (ARD,DJ). St James's Park, one on Oct 9th (ASMS). Victoria Park, one on Dec 12th (DH).

1335 Spotted Flycatcher***Muscicapa striata***

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Records this year of breeding or suspected breeding came from 21 sites and involved a total of 26 pairs, a slight improvement on the 23 pairs reported in 2000. This year spring passage began with a single at Chalfont Park on May 1st. The main influx, coming on May 14th and 15th when 16 birds were reported from eight sites, including six at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens and three at Regent's Park.

Autumn passage was typically more robust and began with the first dispersing birds being noted by mid-July. Peak passage was evident by the 3rd and 4th weeks of Aug into Sept with a number of sites reporting exceptionally good numbers. The last birds of the year were singles at Victoria Park, Hackney, on Oct 3rd and Regent's Park on Oct 4th.

All breeding and Inner London records are given (although summarised for Regent's Park), plus a summary of selected highlights and high counts.

- Essex Copped Hall (1). Dagnam Park, 14 on Aug 23rd. Kelvedon Hatch (1). Passingford Bridge (1). South Weald CP, 11 on Aug 13th. Weald Park (1), 18 on Aug 20th.
- Herts Amwell GP (1). Bricket Wood Area (2). Hatfield Heath (2). Hoddesdon (1). Sollershott West, Letchworth (1). Penshanger Park (1). Pond Wood (1). Shafford Farm (2). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Verulamium Lake (1).
- Middx Bushy Park (1). Middlesex FB, five on Sept 15th (GJ). Trent Park (1).
- Bucks Chalfont Park (1), four on Aug 15th (CR).
- Kent Bessels Green (1). Chipstead Lake (1). Greenwich Park (1). Ruxley GP, six on Aug 29th. Sevenoaks WR (1).
- Surrey No breeding records from this sector this year. Limpsfield, best ever autumn passage 11 birds between Aug 23rd-Sept 6th. Trevereux/Swaynesland, five on Sept 1st.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, six on May 14th. Paddington Green W2, one on Aug 27th and 28th. Regent's Park, three on May 14th, 1-5 on 12 dates from Aug 21st to Oct 4th. Victoria Park, Hackney, singles on Aug 22nd, Sept 1st, and 3rd, and Oct 3rd; three on Sept 16th and five on Aug 22nd.

1349 Pied Flycatcher***Ficedula hypoleuca***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

This year saw a total of 24 birds, slightly higher than average over the last few years.

Spring passage by all accounts was a very brief affair involving just four birds contained within a very precise passage window lasting no more than nine days from Apr 21st-29th. Autumn passage was typically a little more robust and began on Aug 15th. A further 19 birds then followed reported from 13 sites, all singles and all but one falling within the period of Aug 15th-Sept 28th, with corresponding peaks being noted on Aug 23rd and 27th when four birds

were recorded on both dates. The last bird of the year came on the late date of Oct 14th bringing passage to a close. All records are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, singles on Aug 15th, 24th and 26th (KB,Pst). Romford, one on Aug 27th (KB). Weald Park, one on Aug 23rd (CRJ).
- Middx Brent Res, singles on Apr 21st (DJL), Aug 23rd and 27th and Sept 16th (ASMS,BS,RB). Horsenden Hill, singles on Apr 29th and Aug 23rd (AJC). Middlesex FB, singles on Aug 16th and Oct 14th (GJ). Perivale Wood, one on Aug 23rd (AJC). Ruislip, one on Apr 24th (MBy,JTr).
- Surrey Addington Hills, one on Aug 27th (JP). Wimbledon Common, one on Apr 29th (DHd).
- In Lond Paddington Green W2, singles on Aug 19th, 25th and 28th (DTM). Regent's Park, singles on Aug 21st, 27th and Sept 1st (ARD,DJ). Victoria Park, one on Aug 22nd (BGe).

1437 Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

Records this year where direct comparisons could be made for regularly monitored sites suggest a continuation of a stable and very healthy breeding population.

Records of more than 40 birds, and of more than one breeding territory are given below (pairs/territories in brackets), together with all Inner London records listed or summarised for regular sites.

- Essex Cranham Marsh (3). Hornchurch CP (9), 41 on Sept 19th. Walthamstow Res, (2+). Waterworks NR (2).
- Herts Amwell GP (4). Stockers Lake, 50 On Oct 5th.
- Middx Brent Res, 50+ on Oct 4th. Bushy Park (4), 50 throughout on Oct 27th. Middlesex FB (2).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 40+ on Aug 11th, 50 on Oct 6th.
- Kent Foots Cray Woods (c5). Maryon Wilson Park (5). Ruxley GP (2). Sevenoaks WR, 35 on Jan 10th. Swanscombe Marsh (2). Woolwich Common (2-3).
- Surrey Ashted Common (3). Bookham Common (5+ on plains). Cannon Hill Common (2). Morden Hall Park (10), c60 on Dec 2nd. R. Hogsmill, West Ewell, 50 on Jan 7th. R. Thames, Kingston, (2). Thorpe Water Park, 32 on Jan 27th. Wimbledon Common (9), c50 on Jan 10th and Sept 19th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1), 12 on Nov 10th. Camden Town, 16 on Oct 17th. Hyde Park, (1), 10 on Nov 27th and Dec 11th. Kensington Gardens, 33 on June 17th. Paddington Green W2, 15 on Aug 23rd and Oct 6th. Regent's Canal, St Johns Wood, (3), 30 on Sept 18th. Regent's Park (8). St James's Park, (2-3). Victoria Park, 14 in Oct.

1440 Marsh Tit***Parus palustris***

Status: scarce localised breeding resident.

Sightings of birds reported in the breeding season, singing males, and activity indicative of breeding came from only 12-13 sites this year and involved an estimated 21 pairs. However of these only 2-3 pairs/territories were actually confirmed, making this one of the worst years on record.

All breeding season records and counts of two or more are given or summarised below; observers are urged to search for and report this species.

- Essex Bury Wood, Epping Forest, singles on Apr 6th, and May 5th. Connaught Water, 1-2 pairs present in Apr. Copped Hall, one on Mar 12th. Epping Forest, (Magpie control area), singing male on May 5th. Epping Forest, (Pizzle Pits), one on May 23rd. Rowney Wood, two on July 17th. The Mores Wood, singles on Jan 7th and Feb 26th. Yardley Hill, Epping Forest, one on Mar 30th.
- Herts Amwell GP, up to four outside of breeding season. Brookmans Park, two on Mar 15th. Broxbourne Woods, two on Nov 10th. Post Wood, two on Jan 28th, one on Dec 2nd.
- Middx Whitewebbs Wood, 1-2 outside of breeding season.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 1-2 outside of breeding season.
- Surrey Banstead Wood, two on Jan 6th and Mar 12th. Bookham Common, seven territories by end of Mar; two on Dec 1st. Chelsham, four on Feb 11th. Coulsdon Common, one on Apr 6th taking food to nest site. Courtwood Lane, Croydon, 1-2 birds Jan-May and Sept-Dec. Horton CP, 10, family party on Oct 11th. Mickleham Downs, three on Apr 13th. Moorhouse, 1-2 singing Jan-Mar, two on Aug 29th, additional singles in Sept and Dec. Hanging Wood, Woldingham, two on Feb 5th and Dec 30th. Marden Park, Woldingham, four on Dec 12th. Nower Wood, 2T.

1442 Willow Tit***Parus montanus***

Status: very scarce and possibly now a former breeding resident.

Similar to last year the sparse collection of sightings received this year involving just eight birds again provide little in the way of optimism, with a scattering of reports from seven sites spread throughout the region. It was particularly concerning to note that no reports were received from a number of former, traditional breeding sites and a further disappointment that, for the second year in succession, no breeding records or pairs were confirmed. All records are shown.

- Essex Fishers Green, one on Sept 14th and 15th. Thorndon Park, one on June 25th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Jan 7th.
- Surrey Bookham Common, two on Apr 22nd. Moorhouse, one on Nov 29th. Oxted, one on Oct 10th. Wimbledon Common, one on Jan 12th.

1461 Coal Tit***Parus ater***

Status: common breeding species.

Recorder coverage was very poor this year; there is no doubt this species is significantly under recorded from most sectors. Greater continuity, consistency and level of recording is therefore needed throughout before any meaningful conclusions on status can be made. Nevertheless where comparisons were possible the suggestion is that the breeding population is stable with perhaps a slight increase evident from some sectors. However, in contradiction a number of recorders commented on decline, Dagnam Park Essex, "did not breed for the first time in memory", demonstrates the need for caution when making sweeping statements on status in light of insufficient information. All breeding records are given or summarised (pairs/territories in brackets) together with a selection of other records.

- Essex Bury Wood, Epping Forest (8). Copped Hall, (bred, no count). Honey Lane Quarters, five singing males on Mar 18th. Long Running, Epping Forest (1).
- Herts No breeding records received.
- Middx Brent Res (1). Bushy Park, possibly one pair bred.
- Bucks No breeding records received.
- Kent Charlton Cemetery, two territories. Oxleas Wood, three on Feb 14th.
- Surrey Addington Hills, six on Apr 12th. London Wetland Centre, singing male in June. Oxted, bred or present in the breeding season. Park Hill Park, Croydon, four on Apr 15th. Wimbledon Common, 24 singing males located during limited coverage survey.
- In Lond Aberdare Gardens NW6, one singing male on Apr 6th. Kensington Gardens, 3+ on Feb 16th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, 2-3 territories. Regent's Park (5). St James's Park, one pair possibly bred.

1462 Blue Tit***Parus caeruleus***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

In contrast to last year's decline the overall impression from records received this year suggests a relatively stable population. Where comparisons could be made, a very dynamic breeding population is evident, with fluctuation around a mean. At some regularly monitored sites this mean has been declining over the last five years. Selected breeding records including all those from Inner London are given together with a selection of other records and highest counts.

- Essex Bury Wood, Epping Forest, 75 on Mar 15th. Cranham Marsh (11). Highams Park School, 23 on Apr 2nd. Honey Lane Quarters, 60 on Mar 18th. Hornchurch CP (12). Stubbers OPC (6). Waterworks NR (10)
- Herts No breeding records received.
- Middx Bushy Park, c20 on Jan 29th. Middlesex FB (11). Rammey Marsh (9).
- Bucks No breeding records received.
- Kent Abbey Hill Park, Sidcup, 30 on July 29th. Bexley Wood (7), heavily predated by squirrel and crow. Dartford Marsh (bred). Maryon Wilson Park (15-17). Oxleas Wood, c25 on Feb 14th. Woolwich (6).

Surrey Addington Hills, 46 on Jan 19th. Ashtead Common, 29 territories in CBC plot. Banstead, 90 in single flock on Jan 7th. Cannon Hill Common (c20). Epsom Downs, 80+ on Jan 7th, 80 on Sept 20th. Lloyd Park, 46 on Mar 19th. Morden Hall Park (15).

In Lond Buckingham Palace (3). Embankment Gardens, SW1 (1). Limehouse, 14 in Sept. Paddington Green W2 (6), c30 on Aug 18th, 23rd and Sept 18th. Regent's Park (28). St James's Park (4). Whitehall Gardens SW1 (1).

1464 Great Tit

Parus major

Status: abundant breeding resident.

An interesting collection of records was received this year. The Inner London sector is doing particularly well, where an active and dedicated core of recorders provided many excellent records and must be commended for their efforts. Generally speaking breeding reports demonstrated a buoyancy within the breeding population that closely follows an "increasing" national trend. The few declines that were noted from regularly monitored sites probably reflect local changes in habitat and other ecological factors at these locations than any indication or reflection of more widespread decline. All breeding records are given below (pairs/territories/singing males in brackets) together with a selection of additional records and highest counts.

Essex Bury Wood, Epping Forest, (35). Cornmill Meadows (7). Cranham Marsh (4). Highams Park School (21). Honey Lane Quarters (28). Hornchurch CP (8). Stubbers OPC (6). Thorndon Park, 60+ on Jan 5th. Waterworks NR (7).

Herts Amwell GP (16), 18 on Feb 11th.

Middx Middlesex FB (6). Rammey Marsh (5).

Bucks No breeding records received.

Kent Bexley Wood (7). Maryon Wilson Park, (5-8). Woolwich Common (4+).

Surrey Addington Hills, 25 on Apr 12th. Ashtead Common (19). Cannon Hill Common (c10). Epsom Downs, 55 on Jan 7th. Lloyd Park, Croydon, 35 on Apr 9th. Morden Hall Park, (25). Wimbledon Common, c30 on Sept 17th.

In Lond Buckingham Palace (4). Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park - Westbourne Green (10-12). Kensington Gardens, 15 on Feb 7th. Paddington Green W2, (3-4), 10 on Sept 4th. Regent's Canal at St John's Wood, 10 on Dec 12th. Regent's Park (18). St James's Park (5-6). Victoria Park, 12 on Sept 1st.

1479 Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

Status: common breeding resident.

Selected breeding records (pairs/territories/singing males in brackets) including all those from Inner London are given together with a selection of other records and highest counts.

Essex Epping Forest, combined sites (12). Hill Wood, Epping Forest (4). Chingford Plain, two on Apr 9th. Copped Hall, one calling on June 24th. High Beech, five on July 2nd. South Weald CP, three on Aug 11th and 17th. Weald Park, four on Jan 28th.

- Herts Aldenham, bred. Amwell GP, two on Jan 14th. Monkton Hadley Common, (7), 13 on Jan 16th. Sherwoods Wood (5). Verulamium Lake, two calling on Apr 10th. Whippendell Woods, two on May 5th.
- Middx Bushy Park, (1), 6-7 on Jan 7th and 13th. Forty Hall, three on Jan 12th. Trent Park (10+). Whitewebbs Park/Lake, three on Jan 19th.
- Kent Bexley Wood (bred), 2-3 birds throughout year. Fooks Cray Woods, 1-2 calling on Mar 3rd. Jubilee Park, 2-4 in February. Oxleas Wood, three on Feb 14th.
- Surrey Addington Hills, six on Apr 12th. Bookham Common, (4 along western ridge, many in woods). Coombe (1+). Epsom Common (3). Lloyd Park, Croydon, three on Mar 19th. Oxted area (bred). Sanderstead Cemetery, 4+ on Mar 30th. Sanderstead Plantation (bred). Wimbledon Common (10-20).
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, two on Feb 7th and 18th, one on Apr 18th, one adult and one juvenile on May 3rd.

1486 Treecreeper***Certhia familiaris***

Status: common breeding resident.

Selected breeding records (pairs/territories in brackets) including all those from Inner London are given together with a selection of other records and highest counts.

- Essex Bedfords Park (bred). Bury Wood, Epping Forest, 19 on Mar 15th. Connaught Water, (1+), six on Feb 10th. Copped Hall, four on Dec 23rd. Long Running, Epping Forest (3+). Roding Valley NR (1+). Rushey Plain, Epping Forest (1). South Weald, three on Aug 11th. The Mores Wood, four on Dec 12th. Thorndon Park, two on July 14th. Wake Valley Ponds (1). Wintry Wood and Lower Forest, one singing on Mar 10th.
- Herts Rye Meads SF, three in Nov. Whippendell Woods, four on May 5th.
- Middx Bushy Park (2), four on Feb 17th. Forty Hall, four on Jan 19th. Trent Park, (bred), eight on Dec 19th. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, four on Jan 19th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, two ringed on Aug 11th, two on Nov 11th.
- Kent Bexley Wood, three on Mar 1st. Sevenoaks WR, 1-2 recorded throughout the year, five on May 30th.
- Surrey Addington Hills, four on Jan 19th. Epsom Common (bred). Morden Hall Park (2), six on Apr 24th and July 13th. Oxted (1). Richmond Park, four on Nov 7th. Sydenham Hill Wood, two on May 5th. Wimbledon Common, found at 17 woodland sites, "indications are that this species is doing well".
- In Lond Hyde Park, one on Jan 6th. Kensington Gardens, one singing on May 1st and 14th, 2-3 on Dec 11th. Regent's Park (1).

1539 Jay***Garrulus glandarius***

Status: common breeding resident, with numbers boosted by immigrants in autumn and winter.

A very under-recorded species: the eight pairs in Regent's Park may suggest its true breeding density in suitable areas. As usual, most of the higher counts

were in autumn. All breeding records (pairs or territories in brackets) and maximum counts are shown.

- Essex Bury Wood, Epping Forest, 14 on Mar 15th. Dagnam Park (2). Hornchurch CP (5). Leyton (1). Waterworks NR (1).
- Herts No breeding information received. Highest count was seven at Rye Meads SF on Apr 15th.
- Middx Brent Res, 10+ on Sept 15th. Bushy Park, 25 on Oct 17th and 14 on Nov 7th. Middlesex Filter Beds (1).
- Bucks No significant information received.
- Kent Maryon Wilson Park (2). Petts Wood, six on Apr 24th. Ruxley GP, 'several records of 8-10 birds early in the year'. Sevenoaks WR, seven on Dec 12th. Swanscombe Marsh, seven on Oct 14th.
- Surrey Addington Hills, ten on May 11th. Ashted Common, (8 in CBC, 4 in 1998). Cannon Hill Common (2, same as in 2000). Epsom Common, 16 on Sept 29th. Lloyd Park, Croydon, nine on Sept 11th. Morden Hall Park (5-6), 15 on Apr 15th. Oxted (1). Richmond Park, 15 on Nov 7th. Wimbledon Common, 11 on Nov 24th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Primrose Hill, five on Oct 10th. Regent's Park (8).

1549 Magpie

Pica pica

Status: abundant breeding resident.

This familiar bird seldom finds its way into our notebooks! The most eye-catching report this year was of a large roost on the Surrey Downs during both winter periods. Breeding records (pairs or territories in brackets) and higher counts are given; clearly, Inner London supports a large population.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 28 on June 19th. Cranham Marsh (7). Hornchurch CP (9), with 63 on Jan 4th. Mardyke, 35 on Feb 10th.
- Herts No breeding information received. Cheshunt GP, 28 at 70 Acres Pit on Jan 28th. Nightingale Wood, 44 at roost, Jan 30th.
- Middx Only one nest reported, at Middlesex Filter Beds. Alexandra Park, 47 at roost on Jan 24th. Hampton Court Park, 26 on Dec 29th. Oakwood Park, 46 on Jan 24th and 50+ on Feb 14th.
- Bucks No information received.
- Kent Charlton Cemetery (1). Maryon Wilson Park (2-3). Ruxley GP, 25 on Jan 13th. Thamesmead, 'bred', 25 on Apr 29th.
- Surrey Ashted Common (11 in CBC, 8 in 1998). Bookham Common (7+). Cannon Hill Common (7, same as 2000), with 22 on Dec 18th. Epsom Common (5). Farthing Downs, c200 at roost on Jan 13th and Dec 31st. Lloyd Park, Croydon, 45 on Sept 11th. Morden Hall Park, 30 on May 30th.
- In Lond Camley Street Natural Park (1). Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park-Westbourne Green (6). Limehouse, 15 in Sept. Paddington Green, W2 (1). Regent's Park (8).

1560 Jackdaw***Corvus monedula***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in urban areas.

Little information received. In recent decades, the Jackdaw's breeding range has retreated towards the rural fringe of London, although it is still numerous there. Many nesting colonies and roosts must go unreported; there are certainly a number of places in our Area where large flights of roost-bound Jackdaws and other corvids regularly provide a dramatic sideshow for gull-watchers and other evening birders. The few breeding reports are given below (pairs or territories in brackets), along with larger counts and Inner London records. The clearest evidence of migration through London this year was in the March and October concentrations of sightings at Regent's Park.

- Essex Copped Hall, 120 on Feb 18th. Dagnam Park (25). Hayes Hill Farm, 500 on Jan 14th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 3000 at roost on Jan 7th. Sewardstone Marsh, 150 on Jan 13th.
- Herts Beech Farm, 2000 at roost on Sept 29th. Bricket Wood/Common, 120 on Sept 16th. Rye Meads SF, peak counts of roost-flights were 300 on Nov 17th and 200 on Dec 15th.
- Middx Brent Res, total of 62 flying over on Oct 28th (a day-record for the site). Bushy Park, 100 on Jan 29th. Forty Hall, 67 on Mar 6th. Hampton Court Park, 110 on July 29th.
- Bucks No information received.
- Kent The only reports of more than ten birds came from Sevenoaks WR, with 100+ on Dec 5th and 350 on Dec 24th.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, 250 on maize stubble on Jan 11th. Beddington SF, 290 on Dec 18th. Beddlestead Valley, 100+ with Carrion Crows mobbing a Common Buzzard on Dec 3rd. Bookham Common, 100 on May 28th. Epsom Common, bred; 450 flew N on Sept 30th. Hersham GP, 1980 on Feb 22nd. Holmethorpe SP, 500 on Nov 24th and 25th. Limpsfield, 130 on Dec 19th. Morden, 200 on Dec 9th. New Malden, 400-500 flew W on Jan 1st. Oxted, bred; 2000 flew S to roost along R Eden on Aug 19th. West End Common, 100 on Feb 25th.
- In Lond Paddington Green, W2, one on Sept 20th and two on Oct 10th. Regent's Park, two on Feb 22nd; one on Mar 6th, two on 7th, singles on 12th and 20th, two on 24th and one on 30th; two on Sept 20th and one on 26th; five on Oct 6th, two on 10th and five on 28th; and finally singles on Nov 1st and Dec 6th.

1563 Rook***Corvus frugilegus***

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in urban areas.

This year we have an unusually complete picture of the Rook's status in the Essex sector; about 35 rookeries were found, containing a remarkable total of 1199 nests. In 2000, the counts for that sector were 19 rookeries and 496 nests, presumably better coverage accounts for the far higher figures. In the Herts sector, 121 nests in five rookeries were counted in 2000, with figures this year of 136 nests in six rookeries. It would be useful to maintain consistent coverage of these encouraging populations.

Elsewhere, most of the picture was missing this year, but there must have been plenty of unremarked rookeries in the Kent and Surrey sectors. All counts are welcome, especially if they can be repeated annually. Rookeries are not difficult to spot. Full details of rookeries (number of nests in brackets), and other large counts, are given below.

Essex	Breach Barns, Nazeing (63). Crystal Waters (49). Curtismill Green (11). Epping, High Street (19). Harlow (22). High Laver, two rookeries (25 and 23). Holyfield Hall Farm, 600 at roost on Jan 24th. Little End, two rookeries (4 and 37). Lower Boddington (21). Malagen (40). Marden Ash (64). Moreton (13). Navestock Hall (75). Nazeing CP (38). Nazeing GP, 492 flew S to roost on Oct 12th. North Ockendon, Clay Tye Wood (80+). North Weald (30). Ongar (15). Parslow Wood Common (11). Passingford Bridge (41). Shelley, two rookeries (2 and 17). Stanford Rivers, two rookeries (8 and 4). Stapleford Tawney (94). Stondon Massey (39). Theydon Bois (9). Thornwood Common (47). Upshire (2). Weald Bridge, three rookeries (48, 38 and 6). Weald Park (8). Wintry Wood and Lower Forest (145). Wynters Grange (51).
Herts	Grove Mill Lane, Watford (13). Harebreaks Wood (formerly known as Leggatts Wood), Watford (21). Hunton Bridge (27). Langleybury School, Watford (20). Rye Meads SF, roost counts of 300 on Jan 1st and 250 on Nov 17th. St Albans, by M10 (41). Watford Tunnels (14).
Middx	The only reports were from Brent Res, one on May 3rd and five on Nov 10th, and Clipper Quay, Isle of Dogs, one on Dec 13th.
Bucks	Denham Place (63). Long Coppice (40). Richings Park (23).
Kent	Downe, two rookeries (17 and 19). Hazel Wood (8).
Surrey	Few reports and no breeding information. Highest count was 80 at Trevereux/Swaynesland in Oct and Dec.

1567 Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

Status: abundant breeding resident.

A species well adapted to life throughout our Area. The 30 pairs in Regent's Park probably give a good measure of its abundance. Breeding records (pairs or territories in brackets) and larger counts are listed.

Essex	Cranham Marsh (3). Dagnam Park (8). Hayes Hill Farm, 200 on Jan 14th. Rainham Marsh, 500 on May 6th. Stubbers OPC (2). Walthamstow Res (5).
Herts	Bricket Wood/Common, 400 at roost on Dec 22nd. Hertford Heath, 150 on Jan 12th.
Middx	Alexandra Park, 153 on Nov 6th. Bentley Priory, 200 on Jan 24th and Mar 20th. Bushy Park, 150 on Jan 29th. Middlesex Filter Beds (1). Perivale Wood, 1200 at roost on Jan 28th, 'a long-established roost, at least 30 years old'.
Bucks	Richings Park, 230 on Apr 27th.
Kent	Beckenham Place Park, 281 on Mar 4th. Sevenoaks WR, 118 on Dec 10th.
Surrey	Arbrook Common, 150 on Jan 11th. Ashtead Common, (4 in CBC, 5 in 1998). Beddington SF, 480 on Nov 26th. Cannon Hill Common (4, 3 in 2000). Epsom Common (3-4). Hersham GP, 246 on Mar 14th. Thames foreshore at Wandsworth, 250 on July 22nd. Wimbledon Common, 1000 on Dec 5th.

In Lond Kensington Gardens, 91 on Jan 9th. Paddington Green, W2, bred; 42 on Sept 25th. Paddington Recreation Ground, bred. Regent's Park (30); 96 in early autumn. Tate Gallery (1). Victoria Park, Hackney, 165 in July.

1582 Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Starling's conservation listing has recently been upgraded from Amber to Red by the BTO; it is a species 'in long-term rapid decline' in the UK, particularly in the south and west, with woodland populations the worst affected (*Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside*, BTO). Any information about London Starlings is therefore very welcome, especially counts of breeding birds and comments on success or failure. There were few reports at all in 2001 - certainly not enough to paint a clear picture of this fascinating bird's status. Higher counts and all nesting reports (pairs or territories in brackets) are given.

- Essex The only information came from Rainham Marsh, where the highest counts were of 3,000 on Sept 14th and 23rd, and 4000 on Oct 16th.
- Herts Rye Meads SF, 309 on Nov 10th, 'movement associated with winter thrushes'. Shafford Farm, St Albans, 1000 on Oct 7th.
- Middx Brent Res, 500+ on Mar 10th. Hampton Court Park, 300 on Feb 4th. Harlington, flocks of 600 and 550 on separate fields on Sept 18th. Ponders End, 5000 on June 27th at a regular roost in Wharf Road, including an all greyish-white juvenile. Wormwood Scrubs, 400 on Sept 17th.
- Bucks No significant information received.
- Kent Charlton (8-10). Dartford Marsh, a partial albino on Dec 1st. Maryon Wilson Park (5). Swanscombe Marsh, 200 on July 1st. Thamesmead, 200 on Apr 29th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 1,300 on Dec 17th. Cannon Hill Common, (6 in CBC, 7 in 2000). Esher SF, 1,000 roosting on Nov 13th. London Wetland Centre, 800 flew W on Nov 3rd and 2500 flew E 'to roost' on Dec 7th. Morden Hall Park (35). Raynes Park, 750 on a playing field on Aug 26th. South Norwood Lake, 540 flew W on Nov 10th. Trevereux/Swaynesland, 450 on Mar 18th, 'largest gathering since 1983'.
- In Lond Church Street, W8 (1). Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park - Westbourne Green (5). Kensington Gardens, 200 on Oct 18th. Paddington Green, W2 (2-3); 100 on Oct 8th. Regent's Park (35). Stanhope Place, W2 (1). Tower Hill, 100 on July 22nd. Victoria Park, Hackney, 99 in July.

1584 Rose-coloured Starling

Sturnus roseus

Status: rare vagrant.

- Surrey New Malden, a juvenile was present in a Kneller Road garden for ten minutes from 10.15 on Oct 6th (DMn).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, this bird was one of the highlights of an exciting day for rarities and scarcities in London. It becomes the sixth for the London Area.

A record of one in 1997 at Battersea which was accepted by the *BBRC* was not accepted by the *LNHS* so has not been included in these totals.

1591 House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Status: breeding resident, declining.

Once abundant in Inner London, the House Sparrow grew steadily less numerous there throughout the 20th century. In the rest of our Area, however, the population fall has been both drastic and recent: BBS results showed a decrease of 59 per cent during 1994-2000. The results from a major survey conducted in 2002 should give a full picture. This year's larger counts, reports of breeding pairs or territories (in brackets) and status comments are given below, and they show that the House Sparrow is still found throughout London, but in massively reduced numbers compared to 10-15 years ago.

- Essex Chingford, up to 15 at a garden feeder in Nov and Dec. Dagenham Chase, 30 on Aug 21st. Dagnam Park (3). Hornchurch, 25 on Aug 9th. Wm Girling Res, 20 on July 15th.
- Herts Blackbirds SF, 20 on Sept 26th. Noke Farm, 27 on Dec 1st. Park Street, 70 on Aug 4th. Rickmansworth, 31 in observer's garden on Aug 28th. Rye Meads SF, two on Oct 13th was the only sighting of the year.
- Middx Bushy Park, 18 on Feb 18th. Crouch End, 'none in Crouch End, formerly quite common'. Hampton, 27 on Dec 14th. Harmondsworth, 85 at Home Farm on Aug 29th. Mudchute City Farm, 50 on Sept 1st.
- Bucks No information received.
- Kent Bexley, 35 on July 15th. Westbrook Rd, Blackheath, two males on Apr 20th, 'rarely seen here nowadays'. Crayford, 15 in Whitehill Rd on Jan 1st. Greenwich Park, 15 on Feb 2nd. Sydenham, 40 on Dec 14th. Thames Barrier area (5). Thamesmead, 15 on May 13th, 'bred'.
- Surrey Cannon Hill Common, (1 in CBC, none in 2000). Chelsham, 20 on Jan 9th. Ellice Rd, Oxted, 'about four pairs still breed within radius of 200m'. London Wetland Centre, 18 on May 19th and 21 on Aug 12th. Shelveys Way, Tadworth, 'sadly a totally blank year'. South Norwood CP, 50 on Aug 21st. Trevereux/Swaynesland, 30 on Aug 19th. Wandsworth Common, 50 on Apr 1st. Wimbledon, 15 on Nov 30th. Woldingham, 22 on Feb 12th.
- In Lond Broadley St Gardens, ten on June 13th. Chelsea Embankment, 11 on Oct 26th. Grand Union Canal, Victoria Park-Westbourne Green (15). Kensington Gardens (2), with 12 at roost on Jan 14th. Limehouse, 17 in May, 12 in June and 11 in Nov. Lisson Green Estate, NW8 (5). London Zoo, 'probably bred'. Paddington Recreation Ground (5). Pimlico, 'probably bred'. Regent's Park (2). Surrey Docks, ten on Oct 9th.

1598 Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Status: scarce and local breeding resident, population probably stable.

The recent picture for this species has featured two main colonies, in Herts and Surrey, plus scattered records elsewhere. The scatter varies from year to

year – in 2000 records came from Herts, Middx, Bucks and Surrey, compared with Essex, Herts and Surrey this year – which may suggest a population more widespread (if very sparse) than implied by records in any one year. All reports are given. It would be very useful to be able to publish numbers of pairs and breeding success every year from the colonies at Colney Heath/Coursers Lane Fields and Beddington SF, both of which are dependent on nest-boxes.

- Essex Dagnam Park, 'none bred this year'. North Stifford, two on Apr 29th. Purfleet, two on Oct 7th. Wm Girling Res, one on Nov 3rd.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, one on Jan 1st. Colney Heath, bred, 34 juveniles ringed; 12 on Jan 30th, 30 in Sept and 50 on Dec 31st. Coursers Farm, two on Aug 13th. Coursers Lane Fields, two on Dec 15th. Tyttenhanger GP, four on Feb 18th, two on Feb 25th, one on Oct 29th, 20 on Dec 15th, ten on Dec 20th and seven on Dec 31st.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, one on Jan 13th. Beddington SF, 77 territories; largest counts were 130 in Oct, 128 in Nov and 125 in Dec. Beddlestead Valley, two on Feb 9th. Roundshaw Downs, 25 on Jan 6th and 15 on Jan 27th; 'some ringed so presumably from Beddington SF'. Shirley, two in Feb-Apr and one in May-July.

1636 Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

During the first winter period there were four flocks comprising 100 or more birds, the largest of which was 400 at Copped Hall on 30th Jan. There were reports of 138-156 pairs/territories in the spring and summer, which is likely to be an underestimate of the breeding population. In the second winter period there were 29 reports of flocks of 100 or more birds including an impressive 963 N/W over the London Wetland Centre on Nov 11th. This count was part of an extended passage that took place between mid October and mid-late November, mainly involving much smaller numbers of birds. Monthly maxima counts over 100 birds, passage counts, breeding data from regularly monitored sites (territories in brackets) and a selection of Inner London sightings are given below.

- Essex Copped Hall, 400 on Jan 30th; 100+ on Sep 18th; 245 on Nov 22nd and 500+ on Dec 23rd. Hawk Wood, Epping Forest, 100 on Feb 23rd. Holyfield Hall Farm, 130 on Nov 25th. Navestock, 150 on Nov 26th. Dagnam Park (10). Sewardstone Marsh (10).
- Herts Batlers Green, Radlett, 120 on Nov 20th. Gorhambury, 100 on Nov 18th. Hertford Heath, 100 on Jan 10th, 120 on Nov 24th. Lynster's Farm, 100 on Dec 5th. Shenley, 100 on Oct 29th. Rye Meads SF, 101 in Nov, 110 in Dec.
- Middx Bushy Park (8, same as in 2000). Fernyhill Farm, c100 on Nov 21st. Hampton Court Park, c100 on Dec 12th. Horsenden Hill (5). Middlesex FB (3). Rammey Marsh (10).
- Kent Thamesmead (10).

- Surrey Ashtead Common (15, 10 in 1998). Beddington SF, 123 on Oct 28th and 113 on Nov 26th. Beddlestead Valley, 100 in mixed finch flock on Dec 21st. Bookham Common (24 on The Plains). Esher Common (4). London Wetland Centre (7 nearby), 135 on Oct 9th, 120 on 10th, and 137 on 14th, 105 W on Nov 10th and 963 N or W on 11th. Moorhouse, 200 on Jan 9th. Rushett Farm, c150 on Dec 2nd.
- In Lond Chepstow Road W2, five on Dec 25th. Greville Place, NW6, singing male on May 6th. Kensington Gardens, two singing males on May 10th. Paddington Green, W2, passage counts: eight SW on Oct 10th, five NW on Oct 28th, 24 NW on Nov 1st, and seven NW on 2nd. Primrose Hill, 12 SW on Oct 10th. Regent's Canal at St. John's Wood (1). Regent's Park (7), 60 over on Nov 2nd. St. James's Park (1, the first since 1997). Victoria Park, six in Nov.

1638 Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

During the early part of the year there were just twelve reports from ten sites and the only double figure flock was in Regent's Park on Mar 27th. The latest report of the spring was of one at Sewardstone Marsh on Apr 29th. The first bird of autumn was at Amwell GP on Sep 21st with another at Rainham Marsh on Sept 23rd. Thereafter there were 25 reports in Oct, 52 reports in Nov and 44 reports in Dec. Most of the large counts came from Copped Hall, with a maximum there of c70 on Dec 23rd. All double figure counts or sector maxima (where lower), plus a summary of other records and all Inner London occurrences are given below. There were no reports from the Bucks sector.

- Essex Copped Hall, 10 on Nov 20th and 16 on 22nd; 25 on Dec 2nd, 55 on 13th, 20 on 16th, 10 on 20th, c70 on 23rd and 20 on 30th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 15 on Nov 11th and 10 on 18th. Away from these two sites there were 16 reports from 11 sites.
- Herts Shenley, 12 on Oct 29th was the only double figure count. Up to five were regular in a Hertford garden from Nov 13th to Dec 11th and there were just 14 other reports from 12 sites.
- Middx There were 16 reports from nine sites, mostly of 1-2 birds. The largest group was six at Hampstead Heath on Oct 15th.
- Kent Just three reports: Crossness East, one with Chaffinches on Dec 29th. Dartford, three over on Oct 20th. Joyden's Wood, two at a garden feeder from Dec 22nd to 31st.
- Surrey There were 29 reports from 17 sites but only two double figure counts. Beddington SF, 12 flew W on Oct 27th. Beddlestead Valley, 20 feeding with a mixed finch flock on Dec 21st.
- In Lond Regent's Park, two on Jan 16th; 15 on Mar 27th; one on Oct 23rd, two on 24th, four on 25th; one on Nov 1st, six on 2nd and singles on 6th, 12th, 20th and Dec 29th.

1649 Greenfinch***Carduelis chloris***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Two sites recorded flocks of 100 or more birds during the year. Counts of 50 or more birds (or sector maxima if lower) plus selected breeding season results (number of territories/singing males/pairs in brackets) and a summary of Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Copped Hall, 50 on Oct 19th, 80 on 24th and 25th; 200 on Nov 21st, 100+ on 22nd; 50 on Dec 9th, 200+ on 23rd and 50+ on 30th. Dagnam Park, 12. Holyfield Hall Farm, 160 at roost on Jan 7th.
- Herts Rye Meads SF, maximum counts of 50 in Nov and 70 in Dec. The only breeding information received was of juveniles observed in Rickmansworth during May to July.
- Middx Bushy Park (8). Fernyhill Farm, 50 on Oct 30th and 60+ on Nov 5th. Horsenden Hill (6). Rammey Marsh (6).
- Bucks Denham Court, 57 on Feb 3rd.
- Kent Charlton Park (3). Maryon Wilson Park (2-3). Thamesmead (c5). There were only three double figure counts, the largest of which was 20 at Sevenoaks WR on Feb 21st.
- Surrey Ashtead Common (3). Bookham Common (3). Hogsmill SF, c60 on Feb 12th. London Wetland Centre (5 nearby). Morden Hall Park (3-4). South Norwood Lake, 50+ SW on Oct 30th. West End Common, c50 on Jan 13th.
- In Lond Approximately 30 pairs were reported nesting in the sector, with Regent's Park alone holding 10 nesting pairs. The largest groups were of 30 birds in Regent's Park on Oct 4th and 40 there on Oct 10th and 23rd. Away from this site, the only other double figure count was of 10 at Surrey Docks on Dec 9th.

1653 Goldfinch***Carduelis carduelis***

Status: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 24 counts of 50 or more birds, including eight counts of 100 or more. The maximum number was 120 in Hanwell on Jan 16th. Groups of 50 or more, plus selected other site maxima and breeding information (pairs/territories in brackets) are given below. All Inner London records are shown.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 61 on Sep 12th. King George V Res, 85 on Sep 3rd. Rainham Marsh, 90 on Oct 12th, 52 on Dec 2nd and 74 on Dec 8th. Stubbers OPC (3). Waltham Abbey, 60 on Dec 12th.
- Herts Colney Heath, 62 on Jan 1st. Garston (9+). Stanstead Abbots, 110 on Feb 10th.
- Middx Brent Res, c60 on Aug 26th. Hanwell, 120 on Jan 16th. Horsenden Hill, 100+ on Aug 19th and 75 on Aug 27th. Wormwood Scrubs, 53 on Sep 17th.
- Bucks Ranston Covert, Denham, 24 on Jan 5th. Wraysbury GP, 20 on Nov 10th.
- Kent Blackheath, c50 on Oct 20th. Sevenoaks WR, 110 on Jan 17th, 100+ on Feb 5th and 10th, 107 on Feb 21st and 50 on Dec 30th. Swanscombe Marsh (6).
- Surrey Banstead Wood, 80 on Dec 10th. Beddington SF, 61 on Dec 28th. Island Barn Res, 60 on Aug 6th. London Wetland Centre, 100 on Aug 6th. Surbiton, c60 on Mar 1st.

In Lond Kensington Gardens, six on Jan 18th. Limehouse, nine on Sep 29th. Paddington Green, two on Feb 14th, eight on Mar 28th and Oct 21st, 10 on Nov 6th; one pair bred. Regent's Park, seven on Mar 5th and 14th, one on Apr 1st, 11 on Oct 17th, 24 on Oct 19th and 16 on Oct 20th. Victoria Park, Hackney, 18 in October.

1654 Siskin *Carduelis spinus*
Status: common winter visitor, passage migrant and increasingly regular in summer; potential breeding species.

Numbers were generally low with just six three figure flocks (compared with 12 in 2000) and a high count of 201 (500 in 2000). The last birds of the spring were seven over Hilfield Park Res (Herts) and one over Limpsfield Chart (Surrey) on May 6th but most birds had departed by mid April. There was a report of a bird present in a Wallington, Surrey garden in July but no confirmed breeding. The first returning birds of the autumn flew over Sevenoaks WR, Kent on Sept 16th. All groups of 50 or more birds, sector high counts if lower and all Inner London records are given.

Essex Hooks Marsh, 50 on Dec 27th. Turnford Marsh GP, c120 on Feb 2nd. At Weald Park numbers were 'very low' in the first winter period.

Herts Amwell GP, 65 on Jan 10th and 50 on Dec 15th. Bricket Wood/Common, 50 on Jan 1st. Brookman's Park, 100 on Dec 3rd. Stocker's Lake, 75 on Jan 20th and 100 on Dec 16th.

Middx Broadwater Lake, 50+ on Jan 2nd, 50 on Nov 16th. Bushy Park, c60 on Jan 17th, c50 on Nov 17th. Forty Hall, c100 on Nov 16th. Hampstead Heath, 60 on passage on Sept 30th. Korda Lake, 82 on Feb 3rd.

Bucks Ranston Covert, Denham, 40 on Jan 29th was the largest sector count, a sharp contrast to 2000 when there were several large groups in the first winter period.

Kent Chipstead Lake, 50+ throughout Jan and Feb, 50 on Dec 29th. Crofton Heath, c50 on Dec 24th. Sevenoaks WR, 201 on Jan 8th, 130 on Dec 27th.

Surrey Walton Heath, 55 passed though on Sept 22nd.

In Lond Camden Town, one over on Oct 13th. Hyde Park, 15 on Jan 6th. Regent's Park, three on Mar 14th and 25 on Oct 4th.

1660 Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*
Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were six three-figure counts, the largest groups of 120 birds being seen at Rainham Marsh in October. Groups of 50 birds or more (or sector high counts where lower) are given along with all breeding reports (number of pairs/territories in brackets) and all Inner London sightings.

Essex Belhus Woods CP, 85 on Oct 30th. Cranham Marsh (3). Gunpowder Park, 103 on Apr 13th, 72 on Apr 29th. Old Harlow, 70 on Apr 23rd. Hornchurch CP (9), 60 on Feb 10th and Apr 13th, 70 on Sept 22nd and 50 on 23rd. Maylands GC

- (3). Rainham Marsh, 70 on Aug 31st, 50 on Sep 27th, 120 on Oct 7th and 30th, 50 on Dec 16th. River Roding, (7 between Ilford and Barking). Sewardstone Marsh (2). Walthamstow (1). Yardley Hill, Epping (1).
- Herts Batlers Green, Radlett, 80 on Nov 20th. Beech Farm, 50 on Jan 7th. Blackbirds SF (5+). Cole Green, 50 on Oct 16th. Essendon, 60 on July 9th.
- Middx Brent Res, juveniles seen on Aug 24th. Brimsdown (1). Hampstead Heath, 55 on Oct 16th and 70 on 25th were all on passage. Harlington, along River Crane (2). Parkside Farm/Res, c50 on Dec 6th. Perivale Wood (possibly 1). Rammey Marsh (5).
- Bucks Only three double figure counts in the sector: Thorney GC, 12 on Dec 19th. Wraysbury GP, 20 on May 26th and 12 on Oct 6th.
- Kent Bexley, c40 on Dec 27th. Ruxley GP (1). Thames Barrier area, 'bred'. Thamesmead (up to 10). Woolwich Common (1-2).
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm (1). Beddington SF, 80 on Sep 24th. Bookham Common (2). Hogsmill SF, 50 on Dec 31st. Limpsfield Chart, "a few pairs bred in the area". London Wetland Centre, 69 on Oct 3rd, 53 on 19th and 57 S on 23rd. Molesey Heath (2). Park Farm, Chessington, 100 on Dec 7th. Riddlesdown, South Croydon, 100 on Jan 3rd. Roundshaw Downs, family party seen on July 14th. Rushett Farm, 50 on Nov 4th, c100 on Dec 2nd, 50 on Dec 14th. Walton Heath (10+). Walton Res, 60 on Oct 27th.
- In Lond Paddington Green, singles on Sept 26th, Oct 10th, 28th and Nov 2nd. Regent's Park, 22 on Mar 24th, 10 on Oct 4th, 12 on 5th, 15 on 7th and 24 on 10th. Victoria Park, two in May and July.

1663 Lesser Redpoll

Carduelis cabaret

Status: uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no reports of large flocks or of any possible breeding activity. The last bird of the spring was at Regent's Park on May 15th but there were two records of singletons in July. Autumn passage commenced on Sept 22nd (with two birds at London Wetland Centre) and was quite marked from mid-Oct. The largest group recorded was of c50 at Hampstead Heath on Oct 29th. All counts of 10 or more birds are given.

- Essex Chafford Hundred, 10 W on Oct 28th. Chingford Plain, 22 on Oct 23rd. Fairmead, 12 on Oct 20th. Fishers Green, 12 on Jan 6th. South Weald CP, 30 on Feb 10th. Thorndon Park, 12 on Dec 8th. Weald Park, 17 on Jan 1st, 15 on Jan 20th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 13 on Jan 10th. Cheshunt GP, 11 on Jan 22nd. North Mimms Park, 25 on Oct 14th and 20 on Nov 30th. Stocker's Lake, 10 on Feb 1st.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 15 on Jan 7th, 12 on Feb 3rd, 10 on Oct 28th. Hampstead Heath, c50 on Oct 29th. Trent Park, 11 on Jan 1st, 10 on Feb 7th, 10 on Mar 10th, 12 on 19th, 10 on Apr 19th, 25 on 30th and 30 on Dec 15th.
- Bucks Tilehouse Lakes, 12 on Feb 3rd.
- Kent Bexley Station, 15 on Jan 29th. Chipstead Lake, 15 on Feb 21st and 25 on Mar 10th. Crofton Heath, 10 on Oct 23rd. Joyden's Wood, 40+ in gardens on Apr 1st. Sevenoaks WR, 12 on Jan 17th, 20 on Feb 21st and 18 on Apr 23rd.

- Surrey Beddington SF, 15 S on Oct 22nd. Epsom Common, 22 over on Oct 27th. Godstone, 15+ on Apr 6th. Holmethorpe SP, 10 on Nov 24th. Limpsfield Chart, 16 on Jan 22nd. London Wetland Centre, 11 on Oct 14th and 21 SW on Nov 3rd. Moorhouse, 11 on Dec 28th. Morden Hall Park, 10-12 SW on Oct 14th. Park Farm, Chessington, 10 on Jan 29th. Richmond Park, 12 on Feb 15th, c20 in Isabella Plantation on Oct 20th. Rushett Farm, 20 on Jan 7th and c35 on Apr 7th. Walton Heath, 45 on Dec 31st. Walton Res, 12 on Dec 17th. Wimbledon Common, 15 on Mar 24th, 10 on Apr 21st, 25 on 7th and 25 on Nov 23rd. Winterdown Woods, 25 on Apr 7th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on May 15th, July 5th, Oct 10th and Nov 28th.

1666 Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

The bulk of the records fell in the summer months, the two largest groups were of 24 at Dartford Marsh on July 14th and 21 at Frogmore GP on August 26th. There were no reports of suspected nesting. All records are shown.

- Essex Buckhurst Hill GP, three SW on June 29th (RCo). Hill Wood, Epping Forest, four on Oct 20th (FS,LK). Maylands GC, one on Sept 24th (CRJ). Waltham Abbey, one S on July 30th (SC).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Aug 27th (GJW). Frogmore GP, 21 on Aug 26th and four on 29th (GJW). Hawkshead Wood, one on July 4th (SCo). North Mimms Park, one over on Nov 1st (HBC). Potters Bar, one over on Aug 6th (HBC).
- Middx Copse Wood, Ruislip, one flew W on July 24th (JE). Hampstead Heath, one on Sept 6th (WEO). Horsenden Hill, one S on Aug 27th (AJC).
- Bucks Black Park, one on Nov 17th (DMF) and 14 on Dec 16th (CL, DRe).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 24 W on July 14th (BEW). Dartford, one on July 25th (AL).
- Surrey Banstead, 15 SW on June 18th (SWG). Banstead Heath, one on July 29th (IPW). Beddington SF, four S on July 14th (BBR). Bookham Common, three over on Aug 11th (RGB). Dawcombe, 12 in area on July 15th (SWG). Limpsfield Chart, four W on June 11th (PJO).
- In Lond Regent's Canal at St. John's Wood, one N on Sept 18th (DTM). Regent's Park, one SW on Apr 28th and four SW on June 21st (ARD,DJn).

1710 Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident.

At c75 pairs/territories, the number of nesting birds recorded was much lower than the 110 reported in 2000, when a special request for records was made, although a number of woods were surveyed in Essex this year. The numbers were closer to 1998 levels (86 pairs/territories) and this unobtrusive species is no doubt under recorded in the London area, particularly in the Kent sector. For the second year running, there were no reports from Inner London and the highest count was of 20 birds at Epsom Downs in January. Counts of more than five birds (or the highest sector count, where lower) plus notable breeding records (pairs/territories in brackets) are given below.

- Essex Copped Hall, 10 on Aug 18th, six on Nov 5th and 14 on Dec 30th. Dagenham Chase, five on Dec 9th. Dagnam Park (6). Fishers Green, 5+ on Jan 12th. Hornchurch CP, (3), five on Dec 26th. Sewardstonebury, six on July 28th. The Hawk Wood, Epping Forest, five on Mar 30th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 14 on Jan 10th. Colney Heath, six on Mar 24th. Hertford Heath, six on Jan 5th. North Mimms Park, seven on Aug 24th. Rye Meads SF, six on Apr 14th, six on Aug 22nd, eight on Nov 15th and 10 on Dec 15th. Scotsbridge Mill, five on Jan 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, five on July 21st.
- Middx Bentley Priory, five on Dec 26th. Brent Res, six on Mar 2nd and five on Dec 2nd. Forty Hall, 10 on Jan 12th. Horsenden Hill (4-5), nine on Nov 23rd. Vicarage Farm, five on Jun 28th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, five on Aug 11th, six on Sep 1st, seven on Oct 6th and eight on Nov 24th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, four on Jan 17th was the highest count in the sector. The only comment regarding breeding was of a pair at Hall Place Gardens in April.
- Surrey Bookham Common (6). Epsom Downs, 16 on Jan 7th and 20 on Jan 20th. Limpsfield Chart, six on Jan 1st. Wimbledon Common, five on Jan 7th, 10 on Nov 11th and 11 on Nov 27th.

1717 Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
 Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

Reported from 11 sites in 2001, an improvement on the seven in 2000 and a return to the levels of 1999 (12) and 1998 (13). There were no reports of successful breeding though there were sightings of birds during the nesting season. As in 2000, the highest count came from Broxbourne Woods, with 11 in January (although there were unconfirmed reports of up to 30 birds during that month). All records are given below.

- Essex Chingford Plain, two on Nov 2nd (KM). Marden Ash, one from Aug 19th to Dec 28th (DSa). Noak Hill, one in the churchyard on Apr 24th (CRJ). Romford, one in a garden on Dec 23rd (KBa). Theydon Bois, one in St. Mary's churchyard on May 12th (SRH).
- Herts Amwell GP, three on Apr 6th (GJW), two on May 26th (GJW) and one on Nov 18th (BR). Broxbourne Woods, seven on Jan 8th, 11 on Jan 18th, one on Jan 21st and seven on Feb 3rd (mo). Post Wood, three on Jan 7th (CBk).
- Middx Trent Park, one on Mar 13th (RMC,RJWh). Ten Acre Wood, one on June 26th (RNHS).
- Surrey Epsom Common, one heard on Oct 29th (APr).

1847 Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*
 Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.

- Surrey QE II Res, one on Oct 14th circled the hide calling amongst a flock of starlings at 07.12-07.13, then flew south (DMH).
 A single record as in 2000, with annual totals of 1-4 birds over the past five years. Mid October is a typical date.

- 1850 Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*
 Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, one present from 11.24-11.58 on Dec 8th, alighted at the eastern end before flying high north (AChn, DMH).
- Another abysmal year, joint worst with 2000 but prevented a barren showing last experienced in 1994. The Essex and Surrey reservoirs still provide the best chance of catching up with this attractive bunting.
-
- 1857 Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*
 Status: widespread but declining breeding resident.
- The decline continues to an all time low of 63 pairs/singing males, this compares with 86 in 2000 and 130 in 1999. All breeding season records (with the number of singing males/territories in brackets), counts of ten or more and any observer comments on status are given.
- Essex Beauchamp Roding (6). Berwick Ponds (2). Bush Farm (2). Copped Hall (7+), 61 on Dec 23rd. Cornmill Meadows (1). Crystal Waters (2). Dagenham Chase (1). Dagnam Park (1). Fairlop Lakes CP (1). Fishers Green, 16 on Nov 25th. Hornchurch CP (10); 20 on Jan 4th increasing to 25 Feb 18th, with 12 on Sept 5th increasing to 15 Oct 3rd. Navestock, 12 on Nov 15th increasing to 20 Dec 8th. Roydon GP, 15 on Jan 14th. Sewardstone (1), down from 3 in 2000. Stondon Massey, 20 on Jan 20th. Upminster (1).
- Herts Abbots Langley, 31 on Dec 17th. Batlers Green, Radlett, 23 on Dec 11th. Chiswell Green, 100 on Dec 23rd. Colney Street, Radlett (2). Essendon (6). Hilfield Park Res (1). Kings Langley, 40 on Dec 15th. Park Street (1). Oakridge Lane, Radlett (1). Rye Meads SF, 28 on Jan 27th, had fallen to 20 by Feb 15th, with 11 on Dec 15th.
- Middx Fernyhill Farm, ten on Jan 24th and Dec 27th. Mudchute City Farm, one on Apr 22nd was an unusual record. Vicarage Farm (2).
- Bucks Roberts Farm (1). Rush Green (3). Warren Farm (1).
- Kent Chipstead Lake, 12 on Mar 31st. Horton Kirby, 8 on Dec 20th. Lullingstone Lake Park (4).
- Surrey Banstead Heath (6). Beddlestead Valley, 12 on Feb 9th feeding with Tree Sparrows on sweetcorn game crop. Epsom Common (4), 15 on Feb 1st and 12 to roost on Oct 10th. Holmethorpe SP, 20 on Dec 9th. Horton CP (1), ten on Jan 22nd and Dec 31st. Limpsfield, 20 on Dec 11th increased to 50 on 17th but down to 12 by the year end. Limpsfield Chart (7). Riddlesdown, South Croydon (2), 10+ Dec 26th. Rushett Farm (2), 12 on Jan 28th. Trevereux/Swaynesland (4). Wimbledon Common, a male on Feb 1st was the first record since 1990.

1877 Reed Bunting***Emberiza schoeniclus***

Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This year's total of 178 pairs/singing males reported from 49 sites represents a considerable downward trend (265 in 2000). However, the lack of data on breeding success from Rainham (116 in 200) makes a valid comparison impossible. In fact, if numbers held up at this site then the downward trend has been arrested. The majority of breeding records again come from the Essex, Herts and Surrey sectors, with Bucks particularly poorly represented. Sites holding three or more pairs (shown in brackets), site maxima of ten or more, and unusual records or changes in status are given.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows (3, down from 4 in 2000). Hornchurch CP (14), 12 on Feb 25th and 14 on Nov 2nd. Monkham's Hall, 17 on Jan 12th. Nazeing GP, 20 on Jan 25th, 28th and Feb 20th. Rainham Marsh, 41 on Feb 18th and 25 on Sept 22nd. Walthamstow Marsh (20, compared to just 4 in 2000), 11 on April 16th. Waterworks NR (4, as in both 1999 and 2000).
- Herts Amwell GP (9), 60 on Jan 3rd, 85 on Dec 16th. Bowyers GP (3). Cheshunt GP (7). Croxley Moor, 10 on Sept 28th and Oct 28th. Hilfield Park Res (3), 25 Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec. Rye Meads SF (9, down from 12 in 2000), 65 roosted in Jan, 44 in Nov.
- Middx Bushy Park (2+), 12 on Feb 20th. Clipper Quay, Isle of Dogs, one on Sept 24th was unusual. Rammey Marsh (9, up from just three in 2000).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, ten on May 19th but of four noted in June none were juveniles.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (2, down from 5 in 2000), 5+ on Oct 6th. Swanscombe Marsh (10, up from 4+ in 2000). Thamesmead (4).
- Surrey Beddington SF (11, down from 17 in 2000). Bookham Common (2), first pair noted for three years. Horton CP, 20 roosting Feb 7th, 10+ to roost on Dec 23rd. Jubilee Wood, Chessington, 18 females on Oct 28th, 41 to roost on Nov 8th. London Wetland Centre (15, up from ten both two previous years), maxima of 27 on March 11th and 23 on Nov 17th. Park Farm, Chessington, c20 on Jan 29th. Pen Ponds, Richmond Park (4, down from 8-9 in 2000). Wandsworth, along R. Thames, two on Feb 19th. Walton Res (4, back to 1999 level after seven in 2000). Wimbledon Common (3).

1882 Corn Bunting***Emberiza calandra***

Status: declining and localised breeding resident.

Maximum of 17 pairs/singing males reported, a slight increase from the abysmal 13 reported in 2000 but still an overall steep decline from 38 in 1997 and 65 in 1992. However, this included several singing males from Fairlop when no territorial reports were received in 2000. No records from Surrey this year. All records are given, with pairs/singing males in brackets.

- Essex Bulphan Fen (2), 26 on Dec 14th. Bush Farm, one on May 28th. Fairlop Lakes CP (7); one on Mar 10th, 11 on Oct 13th, 40 on Dec 23rd and 25th. Rainham Marsh, one on Feb 24th.
- Herts Chiswell Green/Potters Crouch (4). Coursers Lane Fields (1). Waterdale (1).
- Kent Dartford Marsh (2-3), with two probable juveniles noted on Sept 9th. Horton Kirby, one on Dec 20th at Westminster Field. Wilmington (1).

Appendix I: Escapes

The following records relate to birds known, or presumed, to be of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are full-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in St James's Park.

White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus***

In Lond Regent's Park, one over on July 16th, presumably the free-flying bird from St James's Park.

0134 White Stork***Ciconia ciconia***

Surrey Byfleet, one on Jan 9th with ring 'AX' is a known escape.

White-faced Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna viduata***

Surrey Beddington SF, one on June 13th.

Black Swan***Cygnus atratus***

Essex 1-2 reported from Rainham Marsh and Walthamstow Res.

Herts 1-2 reported from Amwell GP, Bury Lake and Stocker's Lake.

Middx Singles reported from Brent Res, Canons Lake, Isle of Dogs and Staines Moor.

Bucks One at Wraysbury GP on Apr 28th.

Kent One at Swanscombe Marsh on May 13th.

Surrey 1-3 reported from Thorpe Water Park throughout year.

In Lon One reported from Battersea Park and Kensington Gardens.

0154 Whooper Swan***Cygnus cygnus***

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one present all year.

Swan Goose***Anser cygnoides***

Essex Harrow Lodge Park, three on Oct 7th. Walthamstow Res, two all year.

0158 Pink-footed Goose***Anser brachyrhynchus***

Surrey Holmethorpe SP, one on Feb 18th and Nov 30th.

Bar-headed Goose***Anser indicus***

Herts Cheshunt GP, one on Jan 3rd.

Middx 1-2 reported from Broadwater Lake, Bushy Park, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Kempton NR, Stockley Park and Swan Lake.

Bucks Withy Bridge, Iver, two on Feb 23rd.

Surrey 1-2 reported from Ham Common, London Wetland Centre and Wimbledon Park. Four on R. Thames at Richmond. Pair with juvenile on R. Thames at Teddington.

- 0163 Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*
Essex Mayesbrook Park, Barking, one on Oct 7th.
- Emperor Goose** *Anser canagicus*
Herts Cheshunt GP, one on Oct 23rd.
Surrey Claremont Lake, captive bred and raised three young. Six unclipped birds with captive pair on Sept 20th.
- 0166 Cackling Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis minima*
Essex Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 26th.
- 0167 Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*
Essex 2-5 reported from Fishers Green and Holyfield Hall Farm. Walthamstow Res, three north May 13th.
Herts Cheshunt GP, nine on Jan 3rd. Singles reported at Rye Meads SF and Stockers Farm.
Middx Halliford Mere Lakes, one on Apr 6th. Osterley Park, four adults and five juveniles on Dec 12th.
Bucks Two reported from Horton GP and Queen Mother Res.
Kent Sevenoaks WR, one intermittently between Jan 6th and Nov 19th.
Surrey London Wetland Centre, 1-4 reported. Wimbledon Park, one in January.
In Lond Singles reported from Kensington Gardens and St James's Park.
- 0171 Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
Essex Cornmill Meadows, one Apr 13th. Fisher's Green, one on Apr 22nd.
Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Apr 26th.
- Cape Shelduck** *Tadorna cana*
Surrey Claremont Lake, female from 2000 throughout year, was also seen at West End Common.
- Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*
Essex 1-3 reported from Cornmill Meadows, Dagenham Chase and Nazeing GP.
Herts Singles at Batchworth Lake and Bury Lake, Verulamium Lake, 13 adults and brood of 10 on Sept 9th.
Kent one at Greenwich Park
Surrey Barnes Pond, one for most of the year. Stamford Green Pond, Epsom, four at beginning of year, two at end of year.
In Lond One on Grand Union Canal.
- 0179 Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
In Lond Albert Embankment, a pair on June 11th. Bankside Reach, one on June 18th. Waterloo Bridge, a pair on May 23rd.

- Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix*
Essex 1-2 reported from Connaught Water, Sewardstone Marsh and Weald Park.
- Philippine Duck** *Anas luzonica*
Middx Stanmore, one from January to Mar 19th.
- Speckled Teal** *Anas flavirostris*
Middx Bushy Park, two on Nov 2nd.
Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Dec 7th.
- Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera*
Essex Hornchurch CP, one on several dates in July.
Middx Bushy Park, one on Nov 2nd. Staines Moor, one on May 15th and 16th.
- White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*
Kent Sidcup GC, one in August.
- Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*
Essex Connaught Water, one on three dates in January.
- Puna Teal** *Anas puna*
Essex Connaught Water, one on Jan 17th and three on Nov 25th and Dec 29th.
Middx Brent Res, one from Dec 15th to 19th.
- 0189 Pintail** *Anas acuta*
Surrey A feral population of up to 15 birds reported from several sites during year. Truly wild birds could well augment winter flocks, but it is extremely difficult to assess numbers involved. Also reported from surrounding sites in Inner London and Middlesex.
- Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota*
Essex Warren Pond, one in August and September.
- Red Shoveler** *Anas platalea*
Herts Cheshunt GP, one on Oct 17th.
- Ringed Teal** *Callonetta leucophrys*
Kent Sevenoaks WR, pair on Dec 5th.
- 0183 Baikal Teal** *Anas formosa*
Herts A ringed male seen at Tyttenhanger GP on Dec 9th.

- 0196 Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*
Herts Amwell GP, female from Aug 21st to Sept 11th. St Margarets, tame female on Jan 29th, Feb 18th and Mar 10th.
Middx Bushy Park, one male and three females on various dates throughout year. Stockley Park, tame drake on Apr 20th.
Kent Orpington Pond, 'the usual' pallid female on Feb 14th.
Surrey Claremont Lake, one clipped-winged female with one juv on June 6th.
In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, one to two pairs throughout year; a female with seven young on July 9th; and three females on Sept 19th and Dec 11th.
- 0204 Scaup** *Aythya marila*
Surrey Beddington SF, male on Feb 3rd, Apr 22nd and 29th, also seen in Beddington Park and South Norwood Lake where it was approachable.
- New Zealand Scaup** *Aythya novaeseelandiae*
Essex Connaught Water, one or possibly a hybrid for most of year.
- 0219 Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus*
Essex A male at Copped Hall in Feb, and later in the year together with a female in June, Aug, and Oct through Dec.
- Argentine Blue-bill** *Oxyura vittata*
Middx Brent Res, male on Apr 22nd, May 28th and Sept 28th.
- 0267 Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*
Essex An escaped female was seen at Berwick Ponds on April 5th and 13th, in the Ingrebourne Valley on May 3rd, and in Dagenham Chase from May 12th-13th. Hornchurch CP, a female on May 3rd.
- Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*
Herts Stanstead Abbots, one on Jan 14th.
- Saker** *Falco cherrug*
Essex Fishers Green, one on Sept 9th.
- 0320 Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*
Surrey South Norwood, one with jesses on Sept 2nd.
- Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius*
Middx Kempton NR, one on Nov 4th.
Surrey Epsom, one on Oct 3rd.

Cockatiel***Nymphicus hallandicus***

Singles reported from 10 sites with two at Morden Hall Park, Surrey on Aug 1st.

Budgerigar***Melopsittacus undulatus***

Singles reported from four sites.

Monk Parakeet***Myiopsitta monachus***

Herts Borehamwood, colony present throughout year, max 30 on Mar 17th.
Middx Chiswick, one on Dec 26th.

Alexandrine Parakeet***Psittacula eupatria***

Kent One nest found at undisclosed site.
Surrey Morden Hall Park, one on Mar 18th. QE II Res, one on Sept 30th.

Blue-crowned Parakeet***Aratinga acuticaudata***

Kent Beckenham Place Park, pair with four eggs in nest hole, later found abandoned. This represents the first UK breeding in the wild.

Orange-winged Parrot***Amazona amazonica***

Surrey One reported several times in the Esher RFC roost and at Epsom.

Senegal Parrot***Poicephalus senegalus***

Kent Jubilee Park, one on Nov 10th.

Grey-headed Gull***Larus cirrocephalus***

Herts Tyttenhanger GP, adult on three dates between May and September.
Surrey Beddington SF, adult between May 7th and 18th.

Silver Gull***Larus novaehollandiae***

In Lond Regent's Park, one from Oct 8th to 10th.

Red-whiskered Bulbul***Pycnonotus jocosus***

Middx Twickenham, one from July 1st to 8th.

Zebra Finch***Poephila guttata***

Essex Waltham Abbey, one on Dec 9th.

Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild***

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 2nd.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill***Estrilda melpoda***

Surrey Beddington SF, two on Aug 23rd.

Appendix II: Hybrids

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids.

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose

- Essex Up to two reported from Waltham Marsh and Walthamstow Res.
Herts Up to two reported from eight sites.
Middx Enfield, one on Dec 17th.
Surrey Up to four reported from London Wetland Centre and Thames area.
In Lond Up to two reported from Hyde Park and St James's Park.

Canada Goose x Lesser White-fronted Goose

- Herts Amwell GP, one on June 28th and two on July 7th.

Canada Goose x Swan Goose

- Herts Oylers Farm, one on Oct 7th.

Emperor Goose x Barnacle Goose

- Essex Holyfield Marsh GP, one on Jan 24th.

Emperor Goose x Snow Goose

- Essex Walthamstow Res, one on several dates between Apr and June.

Shelduck x ?

- Herts Bowyers GP, one during October, also on North Met pit.

Wigeon x Chiloe Wigeon

- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 25th, Feb 25th and Nov 3rd to 7th. A wigeon hybrid on Jan 8th and 15th may have also been this bird.

Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal or Wigeon

- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Sept 21st, Oct 7th and one from Nov 7th to Dec 26th.

Gadwall x Teal

- Herts Amwell GP, one on and off all year.

Gadwall x Mallard

- Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 20th and Apr 8th.

Mallard x Pintail

- Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 19th and 20th.

Garganey x ?

Essex Connaught Water, one on several dates between October and December.

White-cheeked Pintail x ?

Essex Harrow Lodge Park, one on Oct 7th.

Aythya hybrids

Essex Connaught Water, a New Zealand Scaup hybrid on Feb 3rd. Grange Waters, one on Dec 31st.

Herts Amwell GP, a Pochard hybrid on Jan 1st; a Tufted Duck x Pochard hybrid - male vaguely resembling Lesser Scaup type from 2000 remained until Jan 27th and again on Dec 15th; a Tufted Duck x Scaup hybrid on Jan 10th. Hilfield Park Res, a Tufted x Ferruginous Duck hybrid on June 17th.

Middx East India Dock Basin, a female type Tufted x Ring-necked Duck in January. Ponders End Lake, a Tufted x Ring-necked Duck on May 21st; a probable Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrid with brood of six on Aug 28th.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, a Pochard x Tufted Duck on Feb 25th. Painshill Park, a drake Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrid resembling Lesser Scaup in Feb. Richmond Park, an apparent Pochard x Ferruginous Duck on Nov 11th into 2002. South Norwood Lake, a Scaup x Tufted Duck hybrid in Feb, also seen at South Norwood CP.

Hooded Merganser x Goldeneye

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Mar 25th and Aug 22nd. Staines Res, the same bird from May 2nd to 7th.

Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull

Bucks Queen Mother Res, immature on Jan 16th.

Chiffchaff x Willow Warbler?

In Lond Regent's Park, one on April 18th sang phrases of both Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler but in appearance looked like a pale Willow Warbler.

Tree Sparrow x House Sparrow

Surrey Coulsdon, a male hybrid paired with female House Sparrow from February to June, also one hybrid in July and December.

First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants – 2001

Summer Migrants		Arrival		Departure	
Garganey	Apr 1	Dagenham Chase NR	Oct 12	Island Barn Res	
Osprey	Apr 1	Amwell GP	Sept 29	Richmond Park	
Hobby	Apr 1	Beddington SF	Oct 24	Wimbledon Common	
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 7	London Wetland Centre	Sept 22	Rye Meads SF	
Whimbrel	Apr 21	Molesey Heath	Aug 20	Hilfield Park Res	
Sandwich Tern	Apr 23	Beddington SF	Oct 6	Dartford Marsh	
Common Tern	Apr 1	Island Barn/QEII Res	Oct 14	Rainham Marsh	
Arctic Tern	Apr 14	Beddington SF	Oct 10	Crossness	
Black Tern	Apr 22	Brent Res	Nov 4	KGVI Res/QE II Res	
Turtle Dove	Apr 22	Hall Marsh	Sept 29	Regent's Park	
Cuckoo	Apr 15	Rye House RSPB	Aug 18	London Wetland Centre	
Swift	Apr 8	London Wetland Centre	Sept 30	Hooks Marsh	
Sand Martin	Mar 10	Amwell GP/Cornmill Meadows	Oct 27	Fishers Green	
Swallow	Mar 22	Horton GP	Nov 3	London Wetland Centre	
House Martin	Mar 11	Amwell GP	Oct 23	London Wetland Centre Tree	
Pipit	Mar 28	Fairlop Lakes CP	Oct 20	Hilfield Park Res	
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 27	London Wetland Centre	Oct 28	Queen Mother Res	
Nightingale	Apr 3	Sewardstone		not recorded	
Redstart	Apr 3	Victoria Park	Oct 1	Dagenham Chase NR	
Whinchat	Apr 28	Brent/Walthamstow Res	Oct 28	Essex FB	
Wheatear	Mar 13	Esher	Nov 6	Queen Mother Res	
Ring Ouzel	Apr 3	Dagenham Chase NR	Nov 2	Barking Bay	
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 18	Wraysbury GP	Sept 6	Tyler's Common	
Sedge Warbler	Mar 29	Horton GP	Oct 18	London Wetland Centre	
Reed Warbler	Apr 6	Ruxley GP	Oct 29	Hall Marsh	
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 7	Hornchurch CP	Nov 11	Wraysbury GP	
Whitethroat	Apr 3	Horton GP	Dec 17	Island Barn Res	
Garden Warbler	Apr 7	Wraysbury GP	Sept 27	Hilfield Pk Res/Bushy Park	
Wood Warbler	Apr 28	Bookham Common	Aug 29	Ruxley GP	
Willow Warbler	Mar 19	Waterworks NR	Oct 28	Surbiton	
Spotted Flycatcher	May 7	London Wetland Centre	Oct 3	Victoria Park	
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 21	Brent Res	Oct 14	Middlesex FB	
Winter Migrants		Departure		Arrival	
Bittern	Apr 15	Cheshunt GP	Oct 4	Cheshunt GP	
Smew	Mar 22	Sevenoaks WR	Nov 16	Amwell GP	
Goosander	May 20	Holyfield Hall Farm	Oct 11	King George V Res	
Jack Snipe	May 5	Fairlop Lakes/Chingford	Sept 19	Rye Meads SF	
Rock Pipit	Apr 1	London Wetland Centre	Sept 18	QE II Res	
Water Pipit	Apr 19	Beddington SF	Oct 13	Rainham Marsh	
Fieldfare	Apr 26	Brent Res	Sept 16	Fairlop Lake/Regent's Park	
Redwing	Apr 15	Walthamstow Res	Sept 8	Waltham Abbey	
Brambling	Apr 29	Sewardstone	Sept 21	Amwell GP	
Siskin	May 6	Hilfield Park Res	Sept 21	Morden Hall Park	

Ringling Report for 2001

Roger Taylor

As far as ringing was concerned, 2001 was a year with a difference, as the outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease curtailed activities at several important ringing sites for at least part of the year. Almost all of the contributors to this analysis reported reduced ringing totals, with only the Dartford and Runnymede ringing groups reporting an increase in the number of full-grown birds ringed during the year.

The total number of birds reported as ringed in the LNHS recording area during 2001 was 12,989 – a fall of 11% on the previous year. This total is made up of 11,587 full-grown birds of 90 species and 1,402 pulli (nestling or chick) of 46 species. The most ringed species was once again Blue Tit (1,311), followed by Great Tit (981), Blackcap (906) and Whitethroat (713).

Amongst the more common resident species there were mixed fortunes: Wren and Robin showed small decreases in numbers of full-grown birds ringed but Dunnock, Blackbird and Song Thrush showed notable increases. In the case of Song Thrush this was a substantial 54%, giving the highest total for the last four years. Although Blackbird and Song Thrush are predominately resident in the breeding season, their numbers are augmented in the winter by an influx of birds from the continent. Two other thrush species visit the LNHS area in some numbers during the winter months: both Fieldfare and Redwing were ringed in good numbers during 2001. The Starling is a species that has been in the news recently, where, along with the House Sparrow, its decline in both urban and rural areas is cause for concern. In the LNHS area, increased ringing effort has raised the Starling total by 53% to 107 and that of House Sparrow by 174% to 178.

Summer migrants provide a significant contribution to the overall ringing totals and Blackcap has been in the top five species ringed for many years; however, in 2001 the number of Blackcap ringed fell by 28%. This may reflect the restrictions imposed by the Foot-and-Mouth outbreak; but this is unlikely, as the majority of these birds are caught in the late summer and early autumn on passage or during post-juvenile dispersal. This view is supported by the increase in numbers of the other common *Silvia* warblers: Garden Warbler (21%); Whitethroat (23%); and Lesser Whitethroat (40%). These appear to be genuine increases in numbers rather than changes in ringing effort. Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler both showed small increases but these are from a very low level, following a steady decline over the past decade. Sedge and Reed Warbler decreased by 9% and 22% respectively.

The number of pulli ringed during the year appears to have been affected by the Foot-and-Mouth restrictions, which prevented access to many nest box sites until after the young had fledged. The total of 1,402 is 30% down on the previous year. This is also reflected in the number of pulli of box-nesters ringed: Blue Tit (346); Great Tit (203); and Tree Sparrow (211) – all of which were substantial reductions on the previous year. Where full access was possible, the news was better: at The Jeffrey Harrison Reserve at Sevenoaks, nest-box occupancy by tits of 88% was the best for five years, and the fledging rates were 92% for Blue Tit and 67% for Great Tit. The high fledging rate for Blue Tit pulli at Sevenoaks was not repeated at two other sites where a large number of tit boxes are installed; here the rates were 67% and 76% respectively. Of the non-box nesters, the Reed Warbler is the most ringed passerine pulli with a total of 111, followed by Sedge Warbler with 32. The number of Common

Tern chicks ringed has increased again this year to a total of 116, with Runnymede, Rye Meads and Maple Cross ringing groups contributing to this total. Barry Trevis ringed 30 Grey Heron chicks at his usual site, up from 22 last year. Unfortunately, the Maple Cross ringing group were unable to visit their heronry in 2001.

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year; a selection of these is listed below. (*Sites within the London Area are attributed to their Watsonian vice-county, as used in the rest of the London Bird Report, with the present administrative area in parentheses. This is to prevent confusion since many counties, where the original ringing, recovery or control may have taken place, use current administrative boundaries*).

The first detail line shows the date and site of original ringing; the second line the subsequent recovery or recapture, with the distance (1km. = 0.625 miles) and number of days between original ringing and final recovery on the third line, followed by any observations or comments.

Key to symbols used:

- 1w First-winter
- 1y First-year
- 2y Second-year
- ad Adult
- F Female
- juv Juvenile
- M Male
- nest Nestling
- R Caught and released by a ringer
- VV Ring or colour marks read in the field
- X Found dead
- + Shot or killed by man

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

1289411	nest	05/05/99	Verulamium, St Albans, Hertfordshire
	X	07/08/01	Haslemere, Surrey
		75km.; 825 days	

This unfortunate bird died after becoming caught in netting placed over a fishpond.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

FC29357	ad	13/02/88	St. James's Park, Middlesex
	+	07/10/93	Antrim, Northern Ireland
		546km.; 2063 days	

This very late report of a bird, shot in 1993, demonstrates how birds – especially waterfowl – recorded in central London originate from, and travel to, many parts of the UK and beyond.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

EP30525	ad	10/02/91	Long Reach Sewage Works, Dartford, Kent
	VV	27/03/01	Konin, Poland
		1241km.; 3698 days	

Every year a large number of records of this species are received. Many of these are sighting records made by Alan Gibson in the Royal Parks. They comprise both birds ringed in the London area, mostly as adults in winter; and birds ringed abroad, usually as pulli in countries bordering the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. In addition to the bird detailed above there were records of ringed birds originating from

Belgium (2), Denmark (2), Sweden (5), Norway (2), Estonia (1), Lithuania (7), Finland (3) and Poland (1). Of the UK ringed birds EJ74039 stands out, as it was originally ringed in Regent's Park on November 30th 1981 and last seen at Wood Green Reservoir on November 20th 2001 just ten days short of 20 years later.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

RE60626	adF	09/07/89	Sevenoaks Reserve, Kent
	R	20/01/01	Lower Feltham, Middlesex
46km.; 4213 days			

Ringed as an adult, this bird was at least 13 years old when it was recaptured in 2001.

RK47093	adM	13/02/99	Sevenoaks Reserve, Kent
	XF	26/06/01	Hutzel bei Bispingen, Lunberg, Germany
699km.; 864 days			

An example of a continental breeding bird wintering in the UK.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

RP59223	1w	10/02/98	Feltham, Middlesex
	X	25/05/01	Karkku, Turku-Pori, Finland
1810km.; 1200 days			

This unfortunate bird was a road casualty on its breeding grounds.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

BB74893	juv	22/08/00	Villeton, Lot-et-Garonne, France
	R	20/05/01	Beddington S F, Surrey
782km.; 271 days			

P745829	juv	30/08/01	Hilfield, Hertfordshire
	R	05/09/01	Saint-Seurin-D'Uzet, Charente-Maritime, France
682km.; 6 days			

A rapid movement south by this first-year bird.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

P168606	juv	28/08/99	Bedfont Lakes, Middlesex
	R	25/07/01	Citerne, Charente-Maritime, France
661km.; 697 days			

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

K954233	juv	20/06/97	Lemsford, Hertfordshire
	X	04/01/99	Ouezane, Morocco
1937km.; 563 days			

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

1Z4284	1y	24/09/00	Sevenoaks Reserve, Kent
	X	30/12/01	Casablanca, Morocco
2067km.; 462 days			

As with the Blackcap listed above, many Chiffchaffs from the UK winter in southern Europe and North Africa.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

5Z4195	1yM	13/11/99	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex
	R	17/10/00	Spurn Bird Observatory, Humberside
		248km.; 339 days	

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

6Z1794	juv	21/08/00	Ruxley Gravel Pits, Kent
	R	05/11/00	Hatton, Middlesex
		38km.; 76 days	

6Z1800	juv	30/08/00	Ruxley Gravel Pits, Kent
	R	05/11/00	Hatton, Middlesex
		38km.; 76 days	

An interesting movement by this usually sedentary species. Were these two birds siblings moving as a family group?

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

P172591	juvF	01/10/00	Flamborough Head, Humberside
	R	23/11/01	Croxley Green, Hertfordshire
		275km.; 418 days	

An interesting movement of a bird possibly travelling south for the winter. British Goldfinches are known to move as far south as Spain in the winter.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

N385457	2yM	16/04/00	Bletchingley, Surrey
	X	24/04/01	Isle of Seil, Strathclyde
		667km.; 373 days	

N568039	adM	03/02/00	Lemsford, Hertfordshire
	X	20/04/01	Dalmally, Strathclyde
		597km.; 442 days	

N661358	adF	28/04/98	Logie Hill, Kildary, Highland Region
	X	10/11/01	Lemsford, Hertfordshire
		705km.; 1292 days	

N977982	2yM	29/01/01	Hurst Green, Surrey
	X	15/03/01	Inverdrue, Aviemore, Highland Region
		704km.; 45 days	

These are all typical movements of birds breeding in Scotland and moving to the southern counties of England in the winter, with N977982 returning north very early.

Table 1. Species totals of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2002

Species	Full grown	Pullus	Total
Little Grebe	2		2
Grey Heron		30	30
Mute Swan	9	2	11
Greylag Goose	74		74
Canada Goose	88	9	97
Shelduck	2	5	7
Gadwall	18	20	38
Teal	7		7
Mallard	42	15	57
Tufted Duck	20	20	40
Ruddy Duck	3		3
Sparrowhawk	15		15
Kestrel	1	11	12
Hobby	1		1
Water Rail	24	2	26
Moorhen	61	6	67
Coot	31	7	38
Lapwing	1	17	18
Jack Snipe	5		5
Snipe	7		7
Redshank	5		5
Greenshank	1		1
Green Sandpiper	2		2
Common Sandpiper	1		1
Black-headed Gull	23		23
Common Tern		116	116
Stock Dove		11	11
Woodpigeon	17	2	19
Turtle Dove	1		1
Collared Dove	4		4
Cuckoo		6	6
Little Owl		4	4
Tawny Owl		3	3
Nightjar	2		2
Swift	36	15	51
Kingfisher	49		49
Green Woodpecker	32		32
Great Spotted Woodpecker	39		39
Skylark	1		1
Sand Martin	9		9
Swallow	1	19	20
House Martin	61		61
Meadow Pipit	15		15

Yellow Wagtail	1		1
Grey Wagtail	35	9	44
Pied Wagtail	42	11	53
Waxwing	9		9
Wren	515		515
Dunnock	607	12	619
Robin	541	16	557
Nightingale	3		3
Redstart	2		2
Whinchat	1		1
Stonechat	7		7
Wheatear	1		1
Blackbird	659	8	667
Fieldfare	48		48
Song Thrush	267	11	278
Redwing	79		79
Mistle Thrush	3		3
Grasshopper Warbler	7		7
Sedge Warbler	340	32	372
Reed Warbler	496	110	606
Lesser Whitethroat	143	5	148
Whitethroat	684	29	713
Garden Warbler	215		215
Blackcap	905	1	906
Chiffchaff	601	1	602
Willow Warbler	256	1	257
Goldcrest	190		190
Firecrest	1		1
Spotted Flycatcher	2		2
Long-tailed Tit	557		557
Marsh Tit	2	9	11
Coal Tit	35		35
Blue Tit	965	346	1311
Great Tit	778	203	981
Nuthatch	11		11
Treecreeper	31		31
Jay	52	8	60
Magpie	15	4	19
Jackdaw	2	1	3
Carrion Crow	4		4
Starling	107	21	128
House Sparrow	178	8	186
Tree Sparrow	3	211	214
Chaffinch	167		167
Greenfinch	555	1	556
Goldfinch	131		131
Siskin	212		212

Linnet	62	4	66
Redpoll	14		14
Bullfinch	109	2	111
Yellowhammer	15		15
Reed Bunting	202	18	220
Ring-necked Parakeet	10		10
Totals	11,587	1,402	12,989

List of contributors

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The Breeding Bird Survey in London, 2001

D.A. Coleman

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was introduced in 1994 to provide a measure of the population changes of our common and widespread birds. One-kilometre squares are chosen at random by BBS organisers at the BTO. Each square is allocated to a volunteer, who makes two early morning transect walks between April and June separated by at least four weeks. The survey is repeated each year following the same route. By comparing counts of birds made on the same square in successive years, it is possible to measure population changes.

This report covers the BTO's London region, which corresponds to the 15 ten-kilometre squares overlapping the London boroughs. In 2001, 55 squares were surveyed – a decline from the peak of 63 squares in 1998. Nationally, the BBS was badly affected by the foot-and-mouth outbreak, with only just over 500 squares completed compared with 2,248 in 2000. London was little affected, since few squares contain much farmland, but five surveys could not be carried out because of access restrictions. The number of squares that have been surveyed every year since the survey began in 1994 inevitably declines each year and now stands at 18 (22 in 2000). A further six 'London surveys' were conducted by observers who wished to contribute to the national scheme but for whom a square was not available. They followed similar methods to the national scheme, but the squares were randomly selected close to the observer's home.

Ringed Plover and Common Snipe were seen for the first time, bringing the total seen on London squares to 105 species. Table 1 shows London population changes between 2000/2001 and 1994/2001, compared with the change found nationally between 1994/2000 (no national figures are available for 1994/2001 due to the foot-and-mouth outbreak). The criterion for inclusion in the table is those species occurring in an average of 20 squares, which is considered the minimum number to provide reliable trends. For each square, the highest count (in a few cases the only count) for each year has been used as the best estimate of abundance.

Most species that showed a statistically significant change in London between 1994/2000 remained significant between 1994/2001. Eight species (Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Wren, Robin, Great Tit, Magpie, Carrion Crow and Chaffinch) are increasing, while three species (Blackbird, Starling and House Sparrow) are decreasing. Other species showed changes in significance. The increase in Greenfinch became significant while the increase in Blue Tit is no longer significant. The declines in Feral Rock Dove and Song Thrush became significant while the declines in Mistle Thrush and Goldfinch are no longer significant. Such fluctuations are to be expected with relatively small samples.

Swifts nest in buildings and so are closely associated with towns. The BBS shows Swift to be the eighth most numerous bird in London, while it is ranked 31st in *The State of the Nation's Birds* by Chris Mead using data from the BBS; so it could be considered a characteristic bird of London. It has been seen on nearly every square (84 out of 91) and, not surprisingly, has been seen more frequently on the late visit (79% of visits) than the early visit (17%). Also, it is perhaps not a surprise that the counts are very variable, which may well be due to weather conditions. On the

late visits, there have been two counts of over 100 and 16 counts of over 50 with a mean of 11. There is a concern that Swifts are declining due to their exclusion from nesting sites, as houses are demolished or developed. It is a difficult species to monitor, since the presence of birds does not indicate that they are breeding in the vicinity; and, until the BBS, there was little data to indicate any trend. Table 2 shows that the annual increases and decreases in London rarely follow the national change figure. The longer term change in London is not statistically significant (partly due to the high variability in the counts) and so there is no evidence for either a decrease or increase; in contrast, Swift is declining nationally. Within London (combining data for all years for the late visit), it seems more numerous in the outer 10-kilometre squares (mean of 12.4 compared with 8.0) and less numerous in the SE (mean of 4.5 compared with 13.1 for the other sectors).

Table 1. Population changes in numbers of birds in the BTO's London region compared with the United Kingdom (lcl=lower confidence limit, ucl=upper confidence limit; figures in bold type are statistically significant).

	<i>Sample size</i>	<i>Change 2000/2001</i>	<i>Change 1994/2001</i>	<i>Change 1994/2001 lcl</i>	<i>Change UK ucl</i>	<i>Change 1994/2000</i>
Mallard	25	7	-3	-33	42	25
Feral Rock Dove	45	-16	-24	-39	-5	3
Woodpigeon	50	4	56	26	94	3
Collared Dove	32	-1	41	5	90	18
Swift	39	-36	-16	-47	32	-18
Wren	44	9	30	9	55	24
Dunnoek	37	4	5	-21	40	8
Robin	45	-3	35	10	65	20
Blackbird	50	-4	-23	-32	-13	13
Song Thrush	32	-33	-37	-55	-11	12
Mistle Thrush	24	-8	-36	-61	4	-2
Blue Tit	48	-5	18	-3	44	3
Great Tit	42	2	107	56	176	18
Jay	23	21	-6	-43	54	-7
Magpie	48	0	30	5	61	9
Carrion Crow	50	1	74	37	121	17
Starling	50	-10	-32	-44	-17	-5
House Sparrow	48	-20	-68	-73	-61	-5
Chaffinch	22	-2	99	31	203	6
Greenfinch	32	25	58	13	123	34
Goldfinch	20	33	-30	-62	28	11

Table 2. Population changes of Swifts over annual and cumulative periods in the BTO's London region compared with the United Kingdom (figures in bold type are statistically significant; n/e indicates no estimate due to the foot-and-mouth outbreak).

Annual periods	London change	UK change	Cumulative periods	London change	UK change
1994/1995	31	0	1994/1995	31	0
1995/1996	10	-19	1994/1996	44	-19
1996/1997	-18	1	1994/1997	18	-20
1997/1998	1	9	1994/1998	19	-13
1998/1999	15	15	1994/1999	37	6
1999/2000	-4	-23	1994/2000	31	-18
2000/2001	-36	2	1994/2001	-16	n/e

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Once again, many thanks to the observers who yet again completed a survey in a difficult year.

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The House Martin in North London: decline in occupancy of observed nest sites, 1985–2003

N.J. Ellis and C. Herbert

Abstract

In response to requests in the *London Bird Report (LBR)* for information regarding breeding records of the House Martin *Delichon urbicum*, a re-survey of known nest locations was undertaken in the London Boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. These sites were mostly residential houses previously recorded by the London Wildlife Trust (Barnet Group) in 1985 and included sites that were both active and inactive in that year. The results show that all of the original sites in the three boroughs are now, without exception, completely devoid of House Martin nests. However, at two of these sites in Barnet, previously unrecorded nests were observed on buildings near by. It is suggested that this may represent the natural local movement of colonies from active 1985 sites. In general, the results seem to support observations by other recorders that the species has suffered a substantial decline in numbers within the London Area.

Introduction

The House Martin has recently been placed on the “Amber List” because of a moderate decline of between 25–49% in the UK breeding population over the previous 25 years (Gregory *et al*, 2002). The annual *LBR* has frequently commented on the low numbers of House Martins in the late 1980s and 1990s, and in 1997 the bird’s status was given as “common, but declining” (Moon, 1998). Concerns regarding the status of the species have led to its inclusion in the London Biodiversity Action Plan (Gilbert, 2001).

This article is written in response to repeated requests in the *LBR* for breeding records and comprehensive studies. This survey re-visits a baseline dataset of past breeding sites where the presence of House Martin nests was recorded in the mid-1980s in an attempt to provide information regarding possible changes in the breeding status of the species in selected areas in northern Greater London.

The 1985 Survey

In 1985 the London Wildlife Trust (Barnet Group) launched a survey to record the distribution of House Martin nests throughout the London Borough of Barnet. As a result of extensive media coverage in the press, together with the participation of their local membership, a total of 47 nest sites were located, including a small number (21.3%) from nearby areas in the adjoining London Boroughs of Enfield and Haringey.

The total number of nests recorded was 91+, with a similar percentage (20.9%) being in the adjacent boroughs. In addition, a small number of nest sites were reported that had held the species until 1984 but which were not currently active.

The 2003 Re-Survey

All of the 54 sites from the original 1985 survey were re-visited in 2003. These included both those sites which held occupied House Martin nests in 1985 (ie which were active in 1985), and sites known to have supported House Martin nests in 1984 – and often in previous years – but recorded as having no nests in 1985 (ie which were inactive in 1985). The sites were all residential houses, with the exception of one that has now been converted into a medical centre.

The re-survey was carried out on the Jun 12th, 13th, 16th and 17th 2003, by which time of year sites were expected to be occupied (Anon, 1987). All survey days were hot and sunny, with little wind, providing conditions that were considered optimal for House Martin aerial activity around nest sites. At each location the presence or absence of House Martin nests was noted and other observations, including the occurrence of feeding birds, was also recorded.

Results

The collected data is summarised in Table 1. All former active and inactive sites in the London Borough of Barnet (as surveyed in 1985) had a complete absence of House Martin nests when re-surveyed in 2003. However, at two previously active sites in Barnet, House Martin nests were observed on two nearby houses in the same street (one to three nests on each) and on a row of three nearby shops (10–15 nests) respectively. There was a similar total absence of nests on previously active sites in the London Boroughs of Enfield and Haringey.

Table 1. Summary of House Martin nest data at survey sites in 1985 and 2003

Sites surveyed		Number of sites visited	1985		2003	
Location	Site status		Number of sites with occupied nests	Total number of nests	Number of sites with occupied nests	Total number of nests
Barnet	Active in 1985	37	37	72+	0*	0
Barnet	Inactive in 1985	7	0	0	0	0
Enfield	Active in 1985	6	6	15+	0	0
Haringey	Active in 1985	4	4	4	0	0

(* House Martin nests found at previously unrecorded addresses close to two of the 1985 survey sites)

Discussion

Our results show that there has been a massive decline in House Martin nests between 1985 and 2003 at the specific sites surveyed. All of the 1985 active sites in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey are now abandoned and, in several cases, homeowners reported that the number of nests per site appeared to be decreasing prior to 1985. Additionally, House Martins have not returned to those sites recorded as inactive in 1985 but with nests present for several years prior to this. This data suggests that once they leave a site they do not return to breed there – at least in the short term – although this is not conclusive, due to the small sample size of seven sites.

It is possible that the House Martin population within the area surveyed is not declining, but that the birds are merely changing nest sites. There appears to be some national disagreement regarding this issue; for example, it has been stated

that House Martins show a “lack of fidelity to a breeding site” (Anon, 1987). However, other reports note that “established breeders” are faithful to a particular “nest site, or its vicinity” (Snow *et al*, 1998). Indeed, some of the sites surveyed in 1985 were noted as having had nests present for several years (up to 15 years prior to 1985 at one Barnet site). The re-survey did identify a couple of previously unrecorded breeding sites extremely close to previous nest sites, which further suggests a population decline as – in the majority of cases – birds appeared to be completely absent from the immediate area.

This study contributes to the debate as to whether House Martin numbers are actually decreasing. One source gives their population status for 1988–91 as stable in Britain, but in several European countries the number of House Martin pairs are declining (Snow *et al*, 1998). It has been noted that, although few studies actually show a marked decline in House Martin populations, many suggest a decrease particularly in large colonies (Sharrock, 1976). Furthermore, it has been suggested that distribution maps of the species between 1988 and 1994 within the London Area may “mask an underlying” decline in the population (Hewlett, 2002). The results presented here appear to provide further confirmation of the recent decline of the species in London as noted in successive annual *LBRs*.

Historically, the London population increased in the late 1960s and early 1970s (Montier, 1977). This trend was generally attributed to the introduction of the Clean Air Act in 1956, suggesting air pollution to be a detrimental factor (Sharrock, 1976). More recently, the increased use of motor vehicles has led to concern regarding air pollution from traffic, which could possibly decrease aerial insect food sources for House Martins (Hewlett, 2002). One study in the former Czechoslovakia observed that urban, or “polluted” areas, had a 35% decrease in nest occupancy as compared to more rural, or “background” areas (Newman *et al*, 1985). It is possible that recent reported declines, such as noted in this paper, are due to air pollution. However, against the argument that pollution has been the cause of House Martin declines is the absence of any apparent change in the Swift *Apus apus* population. This species occurs into the centre of London and is also an aerial invertebrate feeder – although it feeds at considerably higher altitudes and, as a result, may take a different insect species assemblage that could be less affected by ground-level pollution.

Overzealous householders are also known to be a threat to nesting House Martins (Hewlett, 2002). Two sites re-surveyed in this 2003 study had wire meshing under the eaves in places where birds might be likely to nest. These actions have also been observed by other researchers, and nest destruction or deterrence was thought to be the most likely cause of nest desertion in a study in the West Midlands (Anon, 1987). In addition, at least one house was currently undergoing extension work that seems likely to have an effect on future nesting potential. Other factors (eg abundance of food, distance to water and mud sources for nest building) also play a role in nesting abundance (Darolova, 1997) but these have not been considered within the scope of this survey.

This survey provides a concise baseline dataset that can be used for future monitoring of the species. The results support the general observation that House Martin numbers have declined in Greater London at least. Further similar, long-term studies are now required, together with investigations into the possible

causes of such a trend, and it is also suggested that any monitoring programme initiated should also include the Swift.

Acknowledgements

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The authors are grateful to the London Wildlife Trust (Barnet Group) for the original data upon which the re-survey was based, and the many individual residents for reporting the presence of nesting House Martins on their property in the mid-1980s. Thanks are also due to John Colmans, who kindly provided comments on the final draft of this paper.

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House Sparrow Monitoring in the London Area: an Interim Report on a London Natural History Society Survey

Helen Baker

Introduction

In May 1994, I suggested to the London Natural History Society (LNHS) Ornithology Research Committee that a study of the House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* in the London Area should be undertaken. (The “London Area” is the region within a 20-mile (approximately 32-kilometre) radius of St Paul’s Cathedral. It covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.) The British Trust for Ornithology’s (BTO’s) Common Bird Census (CBC) was showing that, at a national level, a number of seed-eating species were declining and this was generally attributed to changes in agricultural practice. In addition there was anecdotal evidence that the House Sparrow was declining in parts of northern Europe including the UK, and comments from LNHS members led me to believe that this trend was evident in the London Area. While changes in agricultural practice could account for the decline of House Sparrows in the more rural part of the Area and possibly in London’s outer suburbs (where sparrows might still go for their “summer holidays” to the cornfields), it seemed unlikely that agricultural changes could account for the decline in central London. I suggested that the survey should be based on regular counts of the sparrows visiting private gardens. The Ornithology Research Committee agreed that I should organise a survey. This interim report covers the period Mar 1st 1995 to Feb 28th 2001 and concentrates on the trend in numbers over that period. Data on predators and possible competitors, and any effect of habitat, will be considered in a later paper reporting on the whole survey, which ended on Oct 4th 2003.

During the years that the survey has been running, the decline in House Sparrow numbers in London and at a national level has become much more apparent and has given rise to concern. House Sparrows have virtually disappeared from the Royal Parks in central London. Sanderson (2001) charts the decline in Kensington Gardens from 1925 when 2,603 were counted to 2000 when just eight were found (see Table 1). In September 1988, I had counted 124 sparrows in St James’s Park and 167 in Regent’s Park. On similar walks in August 1996, I saw just one male sparrow in St James’s Park and none in Regent’s Park. This would have been inconceivable in the 1980s. The House Sparrow entries in the *London Bird Reports* from 1993 onwards make reference to localised evidence of falling populations, and examples are given. For example, the Report for 1997 refers to declines in Hainault Forest (Essex) in the north-east; in Bushy Park (between Teddington and Hampton in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames) and Kingston Vale (between Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames),

both in the south-west of London; and also in Holland Park (in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) in Inner London.

Table 1. The number of House Sparrows counted in Kensington Gardens in autumn

Year	Number
1925	2,603
1948	885
1966	642
1975	544
1995	81
2000	8

In 2002 the House Sparrow was added to the UK Red Data List of species of national conservation concern because the CBC showed a decline of 62% in the 22-year period 1977–1999 (Gregory *et al*, 2002). The CBC surveys farmland populations – not those in more built up areas. However, the BTO’s Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), which covers all habitats, also showed a decline at the national level of 5% between 1994 (when the survey started) and the 2000 breeding season (Raven *et al*, 2002). It is particularly worrying that the BBS shows that, during this same period, House Sparrows have declined by 59% in the London Region (one of the nine Regions into which England is divided for the local administration of Central Government functions). This compares with declines in other Government Office Regions of 22% and 21% in the South East and East of England Regions, respectively, and a relatively stable population in the Regions covering the north of England. Populations increased by 27% in Scotland and 64% in Wales. A decline in House Sparrow numbers appears to be taking place in some other large conurbations in northern Europe, including Hamburg and Ghent (Summers-Smith, 2003).

In response to the rapidly declining populations of House Sparrows and also Starlings, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) commissioned a project to investigate the trends in abundance, breeding performance and survival of the two species in Great Britain in relation to environmental factors and legal control activity. In the report, Crick *et al* (2002) concluded that the British breeding population of House Sparrows was between six and seven million pairs, having fallen from about 12 million pairs in the early 1970s. Just over half of the population occurred in East Anglia, Central East England and Southern England. About 60% of House Sparrows occurred in towns, villages and rural gardens with about half of these in suburban gardens. Since the 1970s, the decline had been greatest in south-east England and had been most apparent in urban and suburban gardens. The report was unable to identify the factors causing this decline and recommended areas where research was needed.

Because of the concern about the House Sparrow in London, it was chosen as a “flagship” species for the London Biodiversity Action Plan. A major London Biodiversity Partnership “Where have all our Sparrows gone?” survey took place in 2002 to determine the current distribution within Greater London. This confirmed that House Sparrows were scarce in the centre of London (the City of London and the City of Westminster) and that numbers were higher in the outer areas of Greater London, especially in the east (London Biodiversity Partnership House Sparrow Action Group 2003). For example, they were noted at 94% of the participants’ homes in Havering and 93% in Barking and Dagenham (outer London Boroughs) but at only 17% in the City of Westminster. The mean number of sparrows per home was 12 in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham but only one or two in the more central, though much greener, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Method

The LNHS survey was publicised in LNHS Newsletters. Volunteers were sent a recording form and also a habitat form with instructions for completing it. (The information derived from the habitat form will be considered in the full report on the survey, and a copy will be appended to that report.)

The survey week began on a Sunday and participants were asked to record the largest number of sparrows seen at one time in the garden each week. Dependent (wing-shivering) juveniles were counted separately. Information was also requested on potential predators and competitors, the provision of food and water, and the use of pesticide in the garden. Details of any House Sparrow nest sites on the house or in the garden were requested.

The habitat form was designed to obtain information about the house and garden where the sparrows were counted. One question is relevant to the current interim report: participants were asked to classify the area in which they lived as “urban”, “suburban” or “rural”. It should be noted that, for the purposes of the LNHS survey, “urban” referred to densely built up areas and town centres; and “suburban” referred to inhabited areas that contained large gardens or bordered rural areas, municipal parks or recreation areas. There are many parks and open spaces in London, and some gardens in central London were consequently classified as suburban.

Analysis and Results

Since 1995, some 60 people have participated in the survey. Some have completed just one or two forms, nine stopped participating when they moved house or were going to be away from home for extended periods and three members have died. The current analysis is based on data from 27 gardens (see Annex 1) for which there is at least four years’ data up to the end of February 2001 (or earlier if records ceased before the end of February 2001) with no more than one month missed in any of those four years. Three of these gardens were classified as urban and the remaining 24 as suburban. None was classified as rural. It must be emphasised that this is a very small sample and there are large

parts of the LNHS Area, particularly in the east, in which there is no coverage. The results are, therefore, very tentative and should be considered in the context of other studies providing data on House Sparrows in London.

The maximum count of sparrows seen in the garden at one time in each month has been used as the basis of the analysis. (The counts for a week which falls in two months were attributed to the month in which the Sunday – the first day of the survey week – fell.) Maximum counts have been used because:

- the amount of time that can be spent watching bird activity in the garden is likely to vary from week to week and a low count in one week may reflect little opportunity for garden-watching;
- House Sparrows spend much time sitting in thick cover and come down to feed in little groups, quickly darting back again, thus making them difficult to count – especially when there are leaves on the trees.

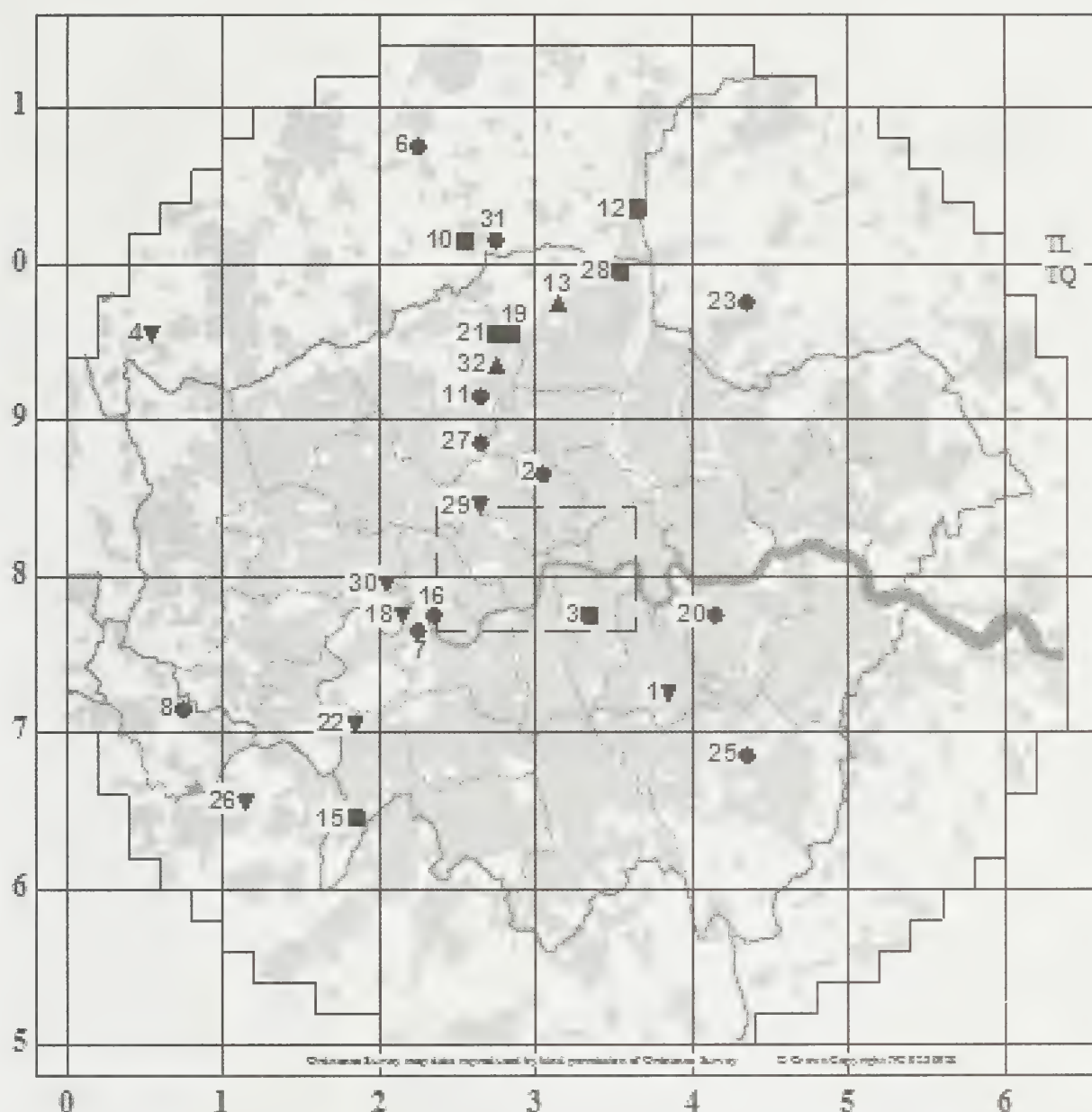
Trend from 1995 to February 2001

The average maximum monthly count of House Sparrows for each garden in each 12-month period (starting at the beginning of March and finishing at the end of February) was calculated and an annual index was produced for each garden, taking the first full year as 100. The annual index values for each garden were plotted on a graph and the regression coefficient for each garden was calculated. This analysis showed that, in all but two gardens (13 and 32), there was a downward trend in House Sparrow numbers from the first full year of counts until the end of February 2001. The gardens have been divided into four categories according to the criteria in Table 2, and the results are plotted on the map at Figure 1. The map divides the London Area into the British National Grid ten-kilometre squares and shows built-up areas together with the Greater London Authority, London borough and county boundaries.

Table 2. The categories into which the gardens have been divided

<i>Category/Symbol</i>	<i>Population trend</i>	<i>Garden index Regression Coefficients</i>
1 Up-pointing triangle	Upwards	Positive
2 Square	Shallow decline	0 to -10
3 Circle	Intermediate decline	-10.1 to -20
4 Down-pointing triangle	Steeper decline	Less than -20

The map suggests that the decline was greatest in central London (TQ28 and TQ27) and that numbers were holding up better in north London/Hertfordshire (TQ29 and TQ39). Of the three urban gardens, one (number 3) was in category 2 with a shallow decline; number 2 was in category 3; and number 1 was in category 4 with a steep decline.



House Sparrow counts from the individual gardens

A histogram has been produced for each of the 27 gardens showing the maximum monthly counts from the start of the survey until the end of February 2001 – or until the month when counts stopped if that was earlier. Figures 2 to 7 contain the histograms, grouped according to the ten-kilometre square in which the garden is situated. A symbol against each garden indicates into which of the four categories in Table 2 the garden fell.

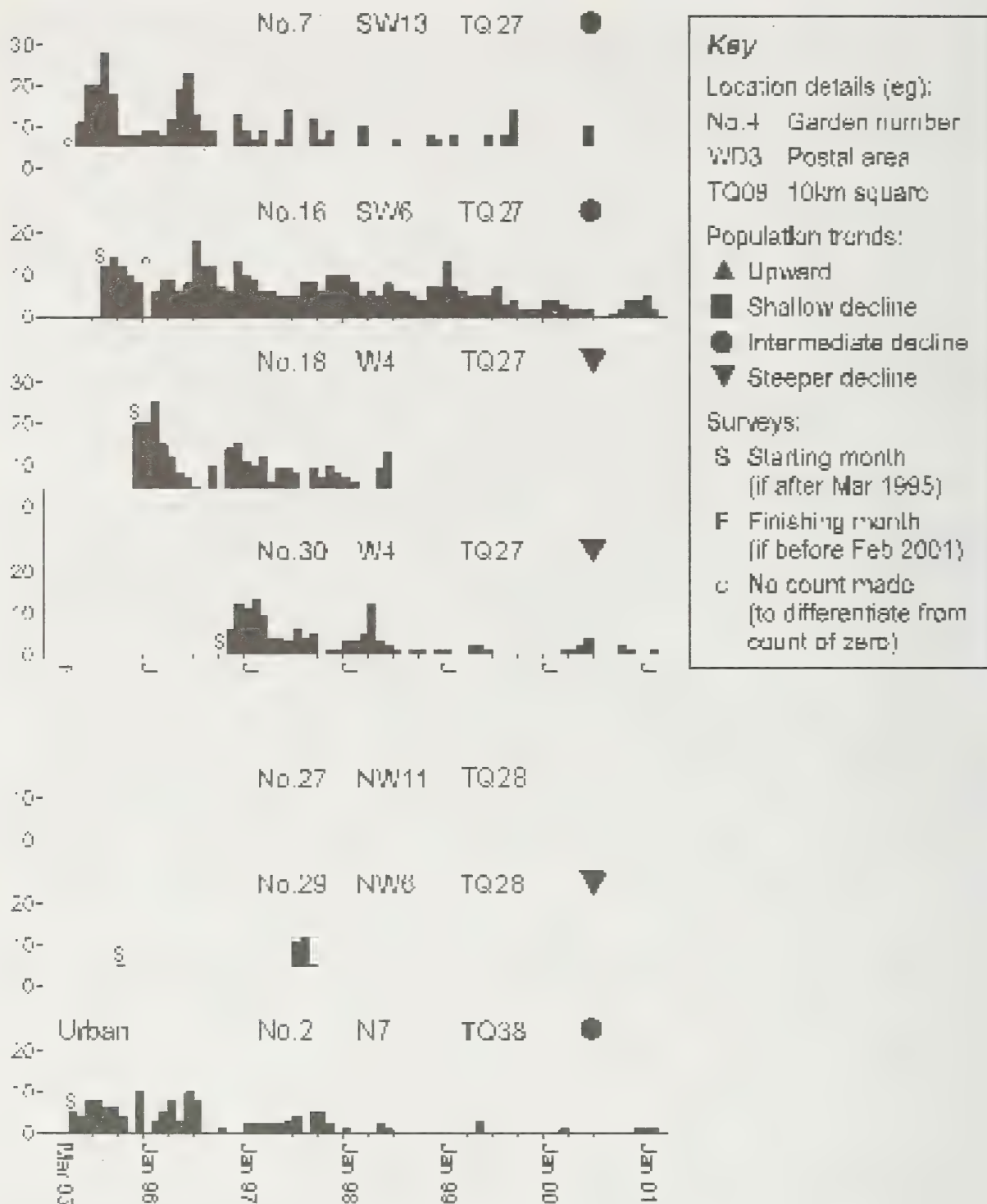


Figure 2. TQ27, TQ28 and TQ38 (central London)

These ten-kilometre squares include St James' Park, Regent's Park, and Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens where the decline in House Sparrow numbers was first noticed. However, they extend out from the centre to include Hampstead Heath in the north and part of Richmond Park to the south. The seven gardens in this group are in the London Boroughs of Barnet (garden number 27), Camden (29), Hounslow (18 and 30), Richmond upon Thames (7), Hammersmith and Fulham (16) and Islington (2). The Islington garden was one of the three classified as urban.

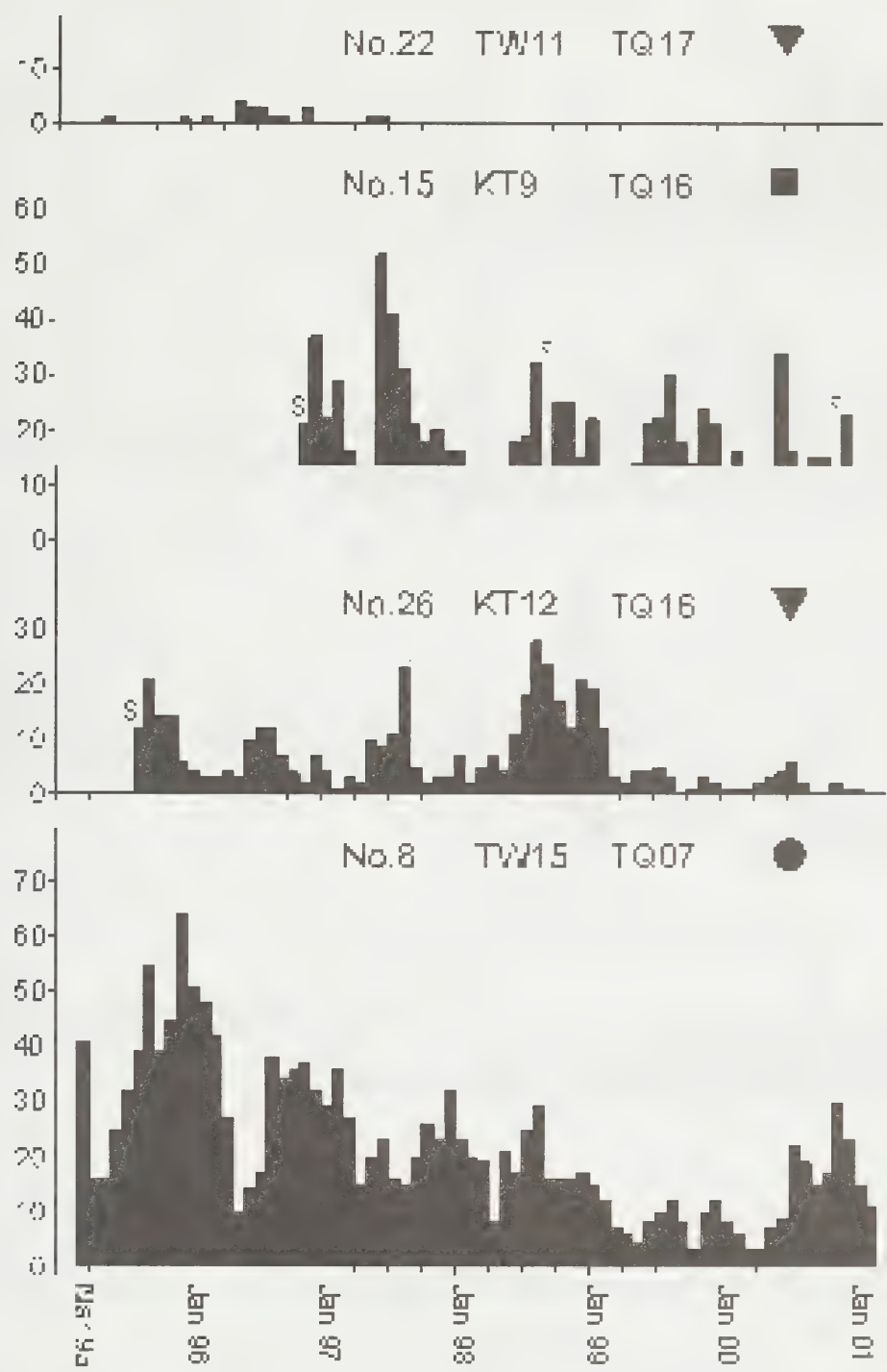


Figure 3. TQ17, TQ16 and TQ07 (south west London/Surrey)
The greater part of these three ten-kilometre squares is in Greater London and Surrey. The gardens are in the London Borough of Richmond on Thames (garden number 22), the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (15), Ashford, Surrey (8) and Walton on Thames, Surrey (26).

Key on opposite page.

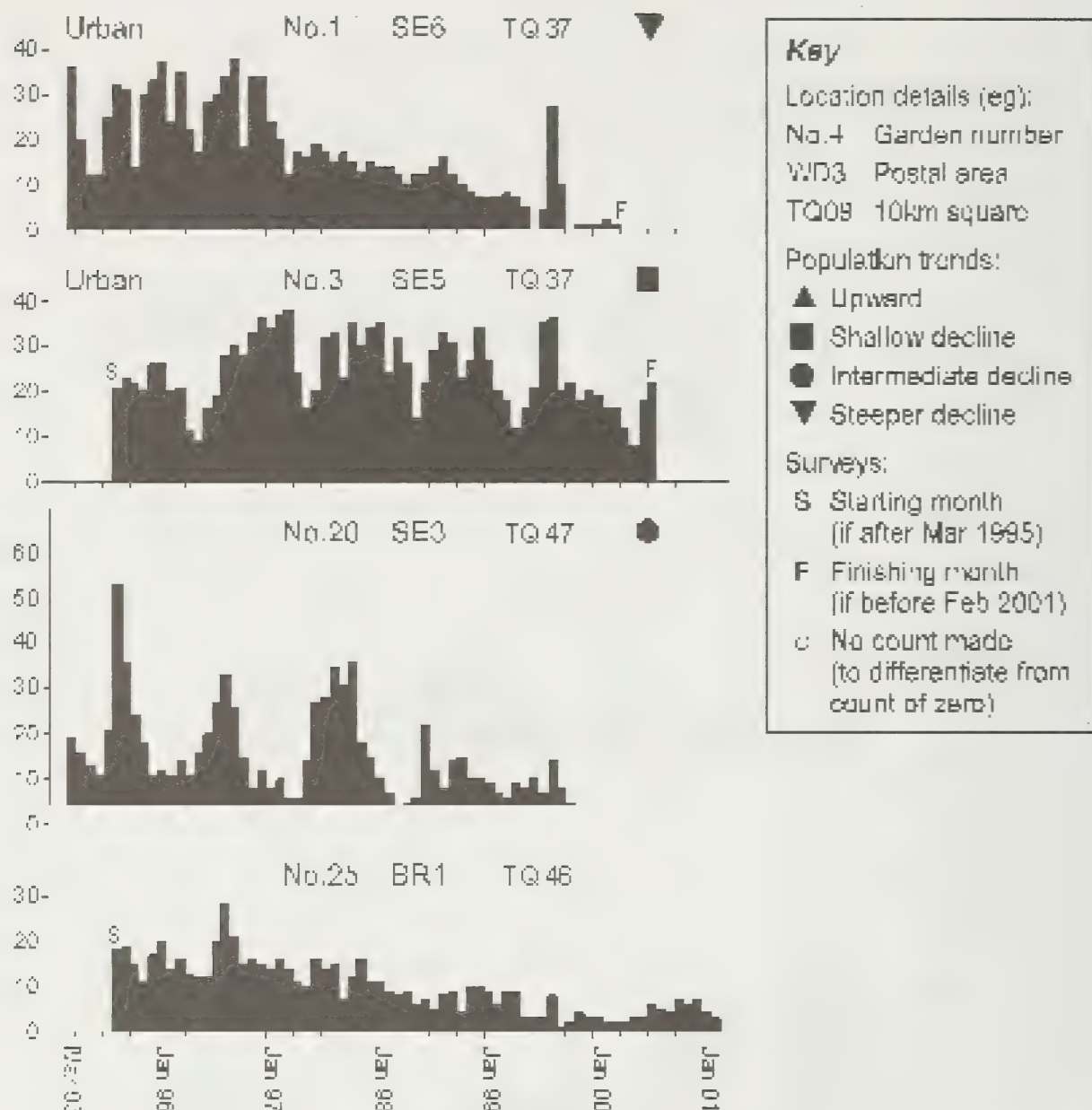


Figure 4. TQ37, TQ47 and TQ46 (south east London)

These four gardens are in the London Boroughs of Lewisham (garden number 1), Southwark (3), Greenwich (20) and Bromley (25). The Lewisham and Southwark gardens were classified as urban.

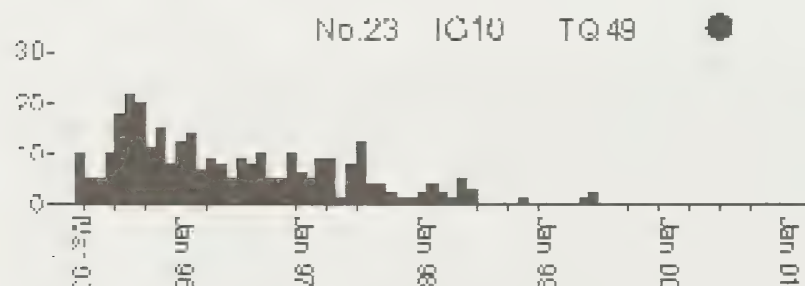


Figure 5. TQ49 (Essex)

This ten-kilometre square is mainly in Essex and includes the greater part of Epping Forest. The one garden in the survey (garden number 23) is in Loughton, which is immediately to the east of the forest.

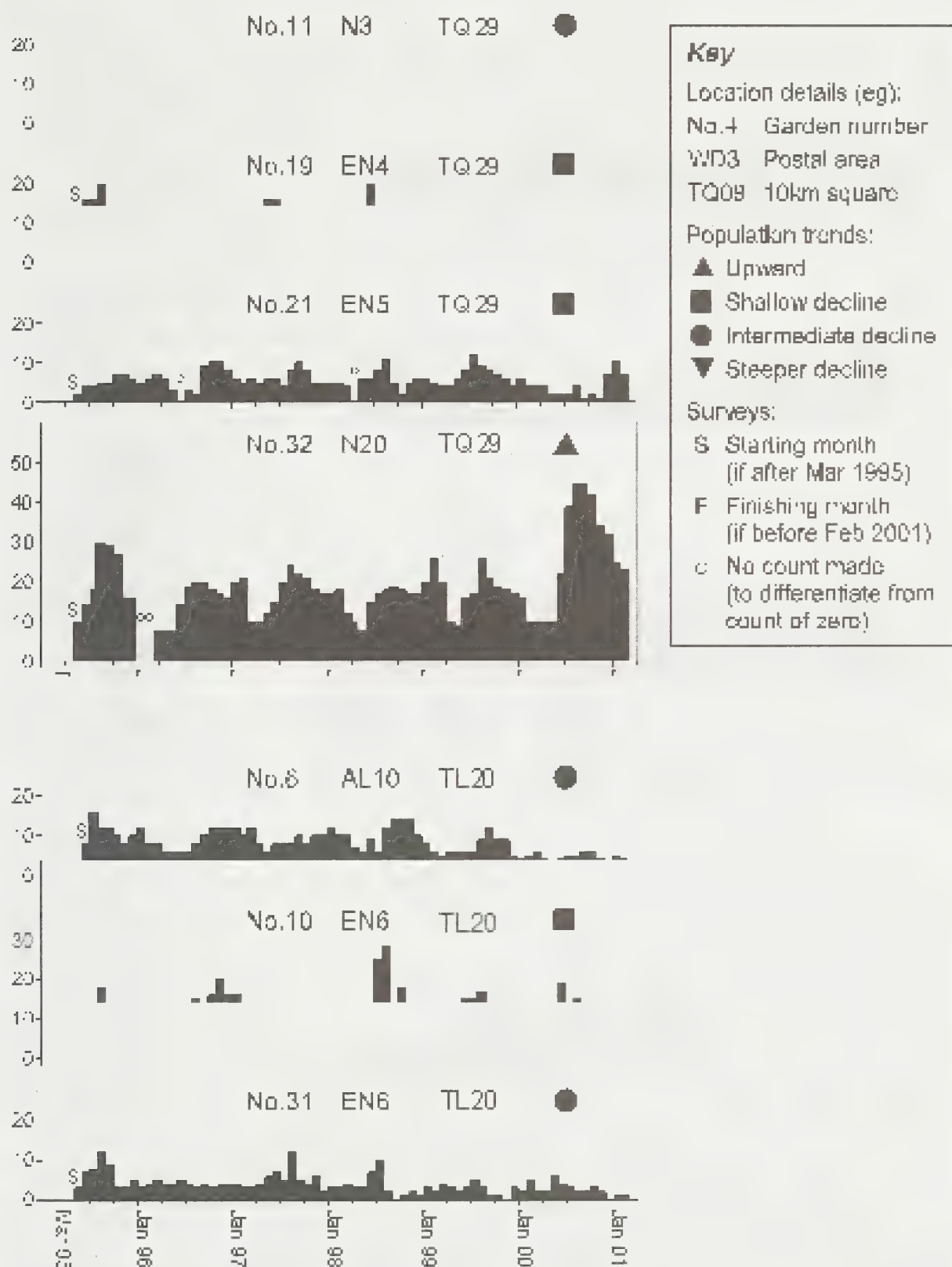


Figure 6. TQ29, TL20 (north London/Hertfordshire)

Six of these gardens are in the London Boroughs of Barnet (gardens number 11, 19, 21 and 32) and Enfield (13 and 28). Four are in Hertfordshire: in Potters Bar (10 and 31), Cheshunt (12) and Hatfield (6). It should be noted that the histogram for garden 13 suggests that House Sparrows numbers declined during the first few months that the garden was in the survey. The upward trend may reflect the fact that 1996 – rather than 1995 – was used as the first year for calculating the trend in numbers.

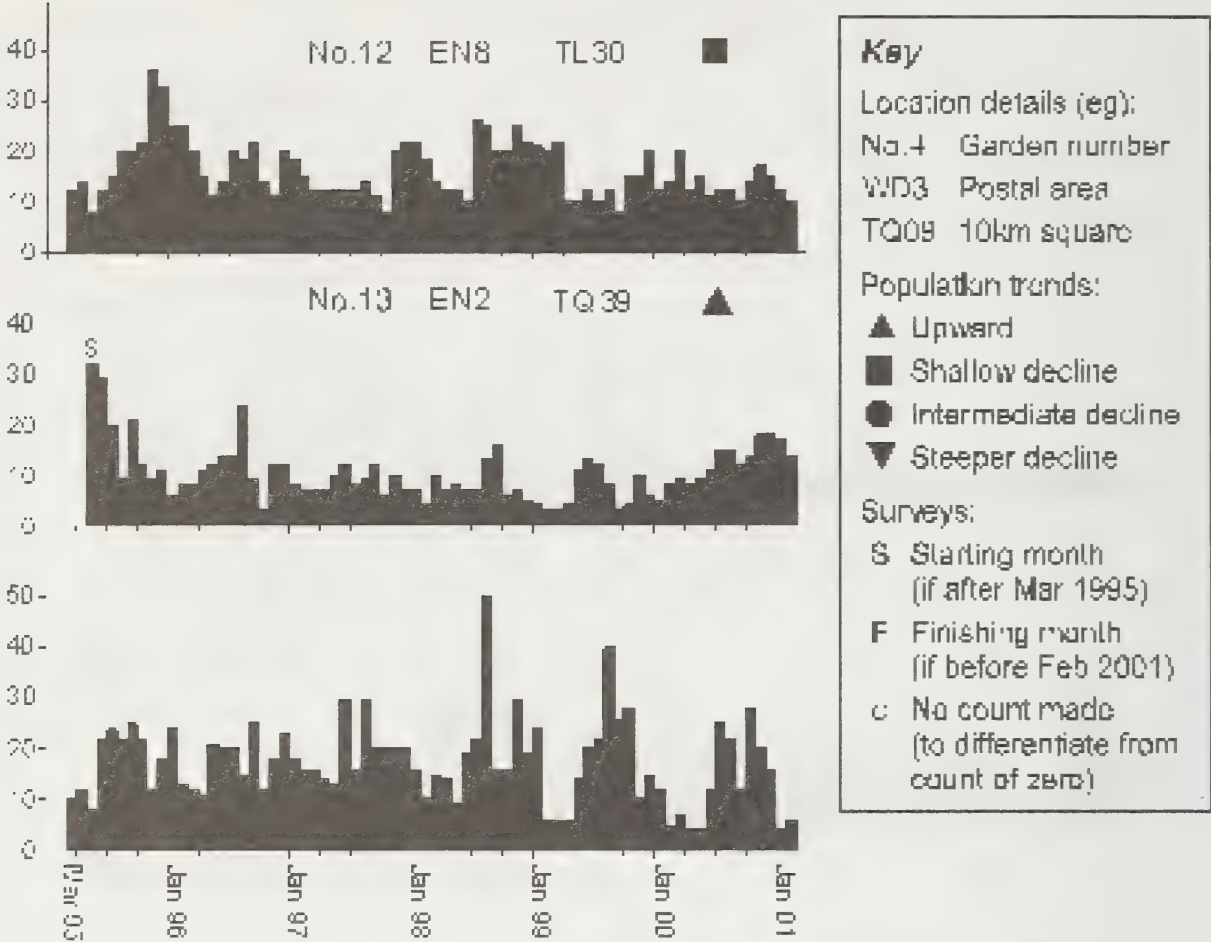


Figure 6 continued. TL30 and TQ39 (north London/ Hertfordshire)

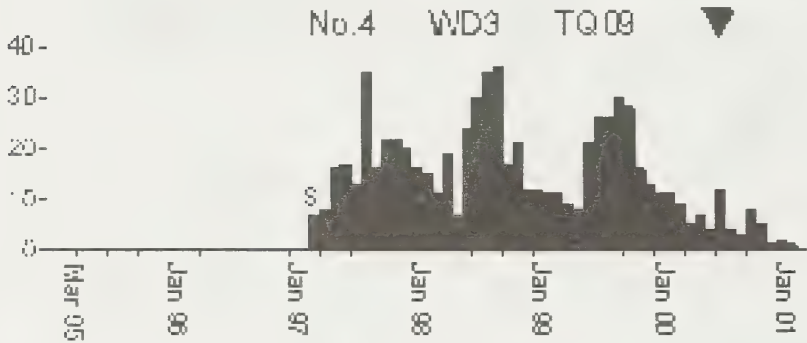


Figure 7. TQ09 (Hertfordshire)

This ten-kilometre square is centred on Rickmansworth, and that is where the single garden (4) is located. In considering the data from this garden it should be noted that, in the spring of 2000, a neighbour's three kittens were just beginning to explore their neighbourhood and they spent a considerable amount of their time in garden 4. By the spring of 2001 they were going much further afield, and House Sparrow numbers increased again.

Juveniles

The maximum number of wing-shivering juveniles seen in the garden at one time was recorded on a weekly basis. A garden-by-garden summary was produced covering the five breeding seasons from 1996 to 2000. Where a garden entered or exited the survey part-way through the breeding season, any counts of juveniles from that year have been excluded. The weekly counts for each garden were added together to give the monthly total. It should be noted that this may overestimate the number of juveniles, because some may have been recorded in consecutive weeks, but a more accurate analysis was not possible. As Figure 8 shows, the first juveniles appeared in April, most left the nest in May and June, and by July the peak of the breeding season had passed. A few juveniles – possibly third broods – were seen in August and September but none was recorded between October and March.

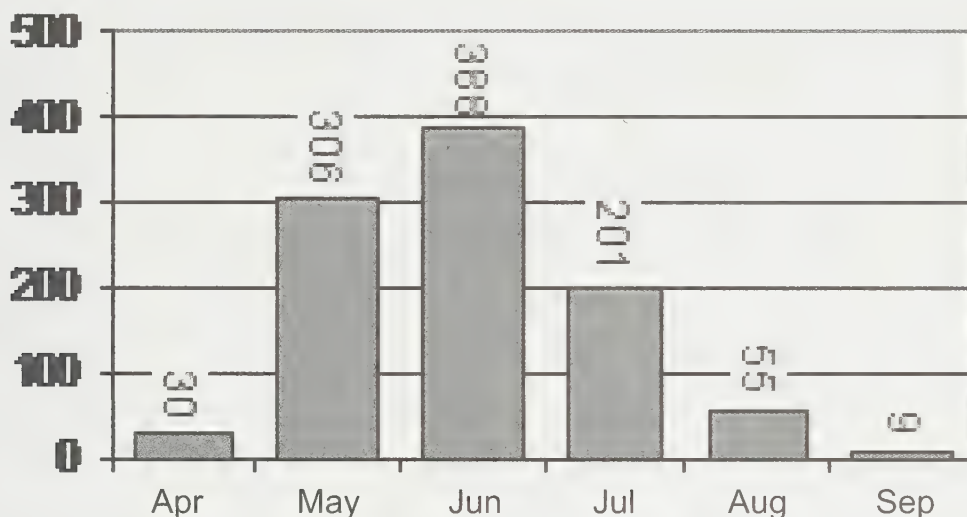


Figure 8. Monthly totals of wing-shivering juveniles (data for breeding seasons 1996–2000 combined)

There were 21 gardens for which there were complete counts for the five breeding seasons 1996 to 2000. The total number of juveniles recorded in these gardens each year was calculated. Each year's total was compared with the total of the maximum counts of adults (including any independent juveniles) recorded in the same gardens during the corresponding April, in an attempt to give an indication of breeding success. The results for the 21 gardens taken together are given in Table 3. They suggest that breeding success in 1996, 1999 and, more particularly, in 2000 was poor.

Table 3. Total number of wing-shivering juveniles recorded each year, with the total of the highest counts of adults recorded in the same gardens each April

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Wing-shivering juveniles	183	198	175	87	41
Adults – April	180	137	113	90	64
% of juveniles to adults	102	145	155	97	64

The provision of food and water and the use of pesticides

A table was produced summarising what food (peanuts, seed and “other food”) was provided, whether water was available and whether pesticide was used in each of the 27 gardens included in this analysis. Water was provided in all but one of the gardens and food was also normally provided (with some seasonal variation) in all but one. Given these similarities, it has not been possible to analyse these data further.

Pesticide was used in six gardens. In each case it was used just occasionally and not necessarily every year, to deal with a specific problem such as blackfly on beans or greenfly smothering new growth on dwarf apple trees. Because use of pesticide was so limited, no further analysis has been attempted.

Nest sites

Information about nest sites on the participant’s own house or on a neighbour’s house was tabulated. Only ten of the 27 participants were able to give any details about the sites where their local sparrows were nesting, and this information normally related to just one, two or occasionally three pairs. Table 4 summarises the results. Where the same site (e.g. under the eaves) was reported by the same person in different years, the largest number of nests reported in any one year has been used. It may be of interest that five of the ten reports came from participants with gardens in categories 1 or 2 where sparrow numbers were increasing or there was just a shallow decline. More information should be available when all the data are analysed, and the location of nest sites might warrant further investigation.

Table 4: Nest sites used by House Sparrows

<i>Description of site</i>	Number of nests
Under eaves, overhanging ridge tiles or roof overhang	11
Hole in wall (behind drainpipe)	1
Behind guttering	4
In a box inserted to block off space between a fitting and the balcony above	2

Discussion

The one conclusion which it seems reasonable to draw at this stage is that counts from the individual gardens are consistent with other data showing that House Sparrow numbers are declining in the London Area. In all but two gardens, sparrows were less abundant in February 2001 than they had been in the first full year for which counts were available. Moreover, in the first two years of the LNHS Survey – up to the end of February 1997 – 20 or more House Sparrows were recorded at least once in 16 gardens; the highest count was 64 recorded in the Ashford, Surrey, garden (number 8) in December 1995. By contrast, in the last two years, from March 1999 to February 2001, counts of 20 or more House Sparrows came from just eight gardens. The highest count was 45 from one of the gardens in Barnet (number 32) in both August and September 2000. This suggests that flocks are getting smaller.

Figure 2 suggests that, from the start of the survey in 1995, House Sparrow numbers may have been very low in parts of central London (TQ28 and TQ38)

and that by 2000 the situation was worse. It seems reasonable to assume that the declines noted in the Royal Parks were not isolated events restricted to these open spaces. The London Biodiversity Partnership "Where have all our Sparrows gone?" survey found very low numbers of House Sparrows in this area in 2002. Unfortunately, the LNHS Survey has no gardens in the eastern part of Greater London where that Survey found the highest number of sparrows in 2002.

The weekly counts suggest that House Sparrows are using many of the gardens rather erratically. Peaks towards the end of the breeding season can be attributed to flocks of independent juveniles making use of the food source for a while and then moving on or dispersing. Peaks in the winter may be attributed to periods of particularly cold weather. Lower counts are to be expected during the early part of the breeding season when one of each pair is likely to be on the nest while the other feeds. However, this does not account for all the changes from month to month which Figures 2 to 7 show. It seems possible that, if House Sparrows numbers are lower, flocks may be more widely spaced and individual flocks may wander further and be less faithful to particular gardens than used to be the case.

Figures 2 to 7 suggest that the pattern of the decline varies from garden to garden. The effect is patchy and there are some areas or even small pockets where the House Sparrow is still present in reasonable numbers. This suggests that the factor or factors responsible for the decline may not be affecting sparrows equally in all parts of the London Area.

The factor or factors causing the sparrows' decline remain a mystery. There are a number of possibilities. There may be a shortage of food for the adults or a shortage of invertebrate food which the nestlings need for at least their first three days of life. House Sparrow numbers may have been reduced as a result of increased predation by Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus*. The LBRs from the mid-1970s to mid-1990s chart the increase in Sparrowhawk numbers and their spread into suburban gardens and London Parks, where they had not previously occurred. Other possibilities include a decrease in the number of suitable nesting places, increased competition with Feral Pigeons *Columba livia* and disease. A further possibility is increased pollution from the emissions from internal combustion engines. This would be most likely to affect birds in built up areas where traffic frequently comes to a standstill with engines running (Summers-Smith, 1999). It will be interesting to see whether the introduction of the Congestion Charge in the centre of London in March 2003 has any impact on sparrow numbers. It has also been suggested by Allee (1938) that, in some social species, reduction of colony size below a critical threshold may impair breeding behaviour.

The possible factors causing the decline in sparrow numbers will be considered in a later paper. However, based on the data from the 27 gardens which are the subject of this interim report, it is suggested that shortage of food for the adults – at any rate outside the breeding season – is unlikely to be a problem. A good variety of food was made available in most of the gardens throughout the year and House Sparrows disappeared from gardens where there were plentiful supplies. Moreover, a flock will visit a feeding station, feed and then settle in the bushes for a while before departing, presumably to another

feeding station, leaving ample food uneaten. They are more stretched during the breeding season when there are nestlings to feed but, as more people are providing food throughout the year, this is likely to be less of a problem than it was ten or twenty years ago. It is possible that the newly independent juveniles experience some difficulty. Personal observations have shown that a flock of young birds may spend a considerable period in a garden where food is provided and more food may be consumed at this time than during the winter. House Sparrows require insect food only during their first few days of life. This survey does not shed any light on whether a shortage of insects may be a problem.

Conclusion

A considerable amount of work is now being undertaken on House Sparrows in London and elsewhere by the BTO, RSPB and others, in an attempt to establish the reason or reasons for the decline in numbers. It is hoped that they will prove successful. The LNHS House Sparrow monitoring programme has now been concluded and a full report will be produced as soon as other commitments permit.

Acknowledgements

Firstly and foremost, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the survey. Without your enthusiasm and diligence it would not be possible to obtain this information. Particular thanks are also due to Denis Summers-Smith who encouraged me to undertake this survey and with whom I have had many helpful discussions about House Sparrows. I am also very grateful to Mike Trier for producing the histograms and to Mike Earp for producing the map at Figure 1 (using Alan Morton's DMap program).

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Annex 1

Gardens on which the current analysis of data is based

<i>Garden Number</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>London Borough or County</i>	<i>Urban or Suburban</i>	<i>10-km square ref</i>
1	Catford	LB of Lewisham	Urban	TQ37
2	Holloway	LB of Islington	Urban	TQ38
3	Camberwell	LB of Southwark	Urban	TQ37
4	Rickmansworth	Hertfordshire	Suburban	TQ09
6	Hatfield	Hertfordshire	Suburban	TL30
7	Barnes	LB of Richmond upon Thames	Suburban	TQ27
8	Ashford	Surrey	Suburban	TQ07
10	Potters Bar	Hertfordshire	Suburban	TL20
11	Finchley	LB of Barnet	Suburban	TQ29
12	Cheshunt	Hertfordshire	Suburban	TL30
13	Enfield	LB of Enfield	Suburban	TQ39
15	Chessington	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	Suburban	TQ16
16	Fulham	LB of Hammersmith and Fulham	Suburban	TQ27
18	Chiswick	LB of Hounslow	Suburban	TQ27
19	East Barnet	LB of Barnet	Suburban	TQ29
20	Blackheath	LB of Greenwich	Suburban	TQ47
21	Barnet	LB of Barnet	Suburban	TQ29
22	Teddington	LB of Richmond upon Thames	Suburban	TQ17
23	Loughton	Essex	Suburban	TQ49
25	Bickley	LB of Bromley	Suburban	TQ46
26	Walton-on-Thames	Surrey	Suburban	TQ16
27	Hampstead Garden Suburb	LB of Barnet	Suburban	TQ28
28	Enfield	LB of Enfield	Suburban	TQ39
29	South Hampstead	LB of Camden	Suburban	TQ28
30	Gunnersbury	LB of Hounslow	Suburban	TQ27
31	Potters Bar	Hertfordshire	Suburban	TQ29
32	Friern Barnet	LB of Barnet	Suburban	TQ29

Radde's Warbler at Fairlop CP — New to the London Area

A.A. Bell

Sunday October 1st 2000 was a bright sunny day, and after a not so early start due to watching the Olympic Games coverage overnight, I arrived at Fairlop CP, which has been my local patch since August 1978 at about 11.30. Given the weather conditions I was hoping to connect with an overflying Honey Buzzard as many were still around from the exceptional influx. I was already on something of a roll as 24 hours earlier I had found a Wryneck at the site for the second autumn running.

There was no further sign of that bird, nor was there any joy on the Honey Buzzard front and indeed things seemed fairly quiet bird-wise.

Just before 1.15pm, I was walking by the fishing pit, which is on the eastern side of the site, when I disturbed a bird that was only a few feet away from me, as it shot into dense undergrowth (the views were non-existent), just an image of the bird as it moved, but what really had my heart racing were the calls the bird gave as I disturbed it. They were completely new to me, a totally distinctive and nervous 'tchuk-tchuk', which was repeated up to six times as the bird flushed. It was clearly agitated and my instant thoughts were 'what the hell was that?'. Within a couple of minutes my thoughts turned to the possibility of the bird being a Radde's Warbler - a species at that time I had only seen once before and had not heard call in life. Nothing more happened for the next 25 minutes, until just after 1.40pm in the same spot I caught sight of a phylloscopus warbler with an extremely long pale supercilium and olive brown upperparts as it turned and went into cover again.

This sighting was of just 2-3 seconds and was to prove unfortunately to be my only ever view of the bird.

The bird was inhabiting an area of low willows, interspersed with bramble at one end and with long grass growing up under the willows. Nothing more happened again by 2.00pm and as I had no mobile phone on me, I was beginning to get a little frantic, as although at this point I was almost certain that the bird was a Radde's Warbler, it was technically an unidentified phylloscopus warbler. I knew I needed help (the bird was incredibly skulking and elusive). I left just after 2.00pm to drive the short distance to my parents house in Hainault to use the phone. I phoned Mike Dennis, Ken Barrett, Andrew Middleton and Colin Jupp, but only Ken was in and he arranged to meet me at Fairlop asap. I returned to Fairlop and awaited Ken Barrett's arrival.

Ken arrived at about 2.35pm, and nearly an hour passed with no further views, just a Chiffchaff that was knocking about in the same general area, although I did hear the bird call a couple of further times (although nowhere near as stridently as when found).

At about 3.30pm, Ken called me over (we were standing about 15 metres apart), saying that he had just seen the bird but for only about 5 seconds and I could not get to him in time to obtain further views myself. Ken had to leave at 5.30pm, but I stayed alone until dusk but had no further views or calls.

By now my head was spinning with excitement, coupled with the fear that it could end up being the 'the one that got away' as the views obtained had been so brief.

The following morning I had to go to work but Andrew Middleton was on site and phoned me on my mobile at 8.45am saying that he had almost certainly seen the Radde's Warbler, I was ecstatic that the bird was still present. Andrew phoned again just after 9.45am, saying that he had just had good views of the bird, Tony Gray had arrived and also had obtained brief views of the bird.

I managed to get to Fairlop anticipating getting good views of the bird between 11.30am - 1.00pm - it wasn't to be - I returned again from 5.30pm to dusk, but nothing further ensued, from late morning large numbers of birders turned up but I am unsure as to how many saw the Radde's.

The following day, I was onsite from dawn until 2.30pm, but the bird was never seen again and had presumably departed overnight.

What follows is based mainly on Andrew Middleton's observations on the second morning of the bird's stay, I myself only ever saw the bird once just on the first day and this for only a few seconds.

Description: a rather stocky phylloscopus warbler, slightly larger than a Chiffchaff, with matching stocky head, bill and legs.

Rather uniform olive upperparts and crown, and slightly darker olive on the wings and tail.

Very long pale off white/pale yellow supercilium, the fore-supercilium was much darker than the rear-supercilium, darker eye-stripe merging with the dark cheeks and ear coverts and crossing the lores.

Underparts: dull off white/greyish.

Bare parts: bill rather thick and stubby and appeared generally dull.

Legs: completely dull orange and appeared rather thick.

Calls: originally found on call, a very nervous 'tchuk- tchuk' repeated up to six times when found and a couple of times in the afternoon although softer than when found.

I have since this record visited NE China (2001 & 2002) and saw and heard many Radde's Warbler's, but interestingly only heard a couple of birds call as the Fairlop bird did, the most frequent call being very different to my ear, being a soft 'prrt-prrt'.

A.A. Bell, 3 Chantress Close, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9YW

Checklist of Birds of the London Area

A full checklist of the birds of the London Area has appeared in recent LBRs and we intend to keep this going on an annual basis. **In 2001 there was one addition to the London List: Blyth’s Reed Warbler**, which now brings the total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times to 356 (a BBRC review of Black-eared Wheatear having removed one), of which 344 have been recorded since 1900. It should be noted that although the LBR lists Yellow-legged Gull and Caspian Gull separately, the former has now been ‘split’ by the BOU but Caspian Gull has not and so is not counted in this checklist.

The 13 species marked with a * in the checklist were recorded in the London Area at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since. Several other species on the British list, particularly wildfowl, have been recorded in the London Area, but only as known or presumed escapes from captivity. Additions and corrections to Osborne (1980) are generally based on the annual London Bird Reports (see especially Hardwick & Self 1992 and the editorial introductions to LBRs: 56 and 57) and reports in Birding World, British Birds and Ibis.

The London Area is the area within 20 miles of St Paul’s Cathedral. The first number for each species is its EURING species number, as now used in the LBR.

0002	Red-throated Diver	Gavia stellata	☐
0003	Black-throated Diver	Gavia arctica	☐
0004	Great Northern Diver	Gavia immer	☐
0006	Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	☐
0007	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	☐
0009	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	☐
0010	Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena	☐
0011	Slavonian Grebe	Podiceps auritus	☐
0012	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	☐
0020	Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialis	☐
0046	Manx Shearwater	Puffinus puffinus	☐
0046	Balearic Shearwater	Puffinus mauretanicus	☐
0048	Little Shearwater	Puffinus assimilis	☐
0052	European Storm Petrel	Hydrobates pelagicus	☐
0055	Leach’s Petrel	Oceanodroma leucorhoa	☐
0071	Gannet	Morus bassanus	☐
0072	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	☐
0080	Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis	☐
0095	Bittern	Botaurus stellaris	☐
0098	Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus	☐
0104	Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	☐
0108	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	☐
0111	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	☐
0119	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	☐
0121	Great White Egret	Egretta alba	☐
0122	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	☐
0124	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	☐
0131	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	☐
0134	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	☐

0136	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	☐
0144	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	☐
0152	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	☐
0153	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	☐
0154	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	☐
0157	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	☐
0158	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	☐
0159	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	☐
0161	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	☐
0166	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	☐
0167	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	☐
0168	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	☐
0169	Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	☐
0170	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	☐
0173	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	☐
0178	Mandarin	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	☐
0179	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	☐
0180	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	☐
0182	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	☐
0184	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	☐
0184.1	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	☐
0186	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	☐
0189	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	☐
0191	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	☐
0192	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	☐
0194	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	☐
0196	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	☐
0198	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	☐
0200	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	☐
0202	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	☐
0203	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	☐
0204	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	☐
0205	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	☐
0206	Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	☐
0212	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	☐
0213	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	☐
0215	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	☐
0218	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	☐
0220	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	☐
0221	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	☐
0223	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	☐
0225	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	☐
0231	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	☐
0238	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	☐
0239	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	☐
0243	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	☐
0260	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	☐
0261	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	☐
0263	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	☐

0267	Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	☐
0269	Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	☐
0287	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	☐
0290	Rough-legged Buzzard	Buteo lagopus	☐
0296	Golden Eagle*	Aquila chrysaetos	☐
0301	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	☐
0303	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	☐
0304	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	☐
0307	Red-footed Falcon	Falco vespertinus	☐
0309	Merlin	Falco columbarius	☐
0310	Hobby	Falco subbuteo	☐
0318	Gyr Falcon	Falco rusticolus	☐
0320	Peregrine	Falco peregrinus	☐
0358	Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa	☐
0367	Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix	☐
0370	Quail	Coturnix coturnix	☐
0394	Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	☐
0407	Water Rail	Rallus aquaticus	☐
0408	Spotted Crake	Porzana porzana	☐
0410	Little Crake*	Porzana parva	☐
0410	Baillon's Crake*	Porzana pusilla	☐
0421	Corncrake	Crex crex	☐
0424	Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	☐
0429	Coot	Fulica atra	☐
0433	Crane	Grus grus	☐
0446	Great Bustard*	Otis tarda	☐
0450	Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	☐
0455	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	☐
0456	Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta	☐
0459	Stone-curlew	Burhinus oedipnemos	☐
0464	Cream-coloured Courser*	Cursorius cursor	☐
0465	Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola	☐
0469	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius	☐
0470	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	☐
0474	Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	☐
0477	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	☐
0482	Dotterel	Charadrius morinellus	☐
0483	American Golden Plover	Pluvialis dominica	☐
0484	Pacific Golden Plover*	Pluvialis fulva	☐
0485	Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	☐
0486	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	☐
0491	Sociable Plover	Vanellus gregarius	☐
0493	Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	☐
0496	Knot	Calidris canutus	☐
0497	Sanderling	Calidris alba	☐
0499	Western Sandpiper	Calidris mauri	☐
0501	Little Stint	Calidris minuta	☐
0502	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii	☐
0505	White-rumped Sandpiper	Calidris fuscicollis	☐

0506	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	☐
0507	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	☐
0508	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	☐
0509	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	☐
0510	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	☐
0512	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	☐
0514	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	☐
0516	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	☐
0517	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	☐
0518	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	☐
0519	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	☐
0520	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	☐
0527	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	☐
0529	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	☐
0532	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	☐
0534	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	☐
0538	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	☐
0541	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	☐
0545	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	☐
0546	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	☐
0547	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	☐
0548	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	☐
0551	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	☐
0552	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	☐
0553	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	☐
0554	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	☐
0556	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	☐
0557	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	☐
0561	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	☐
0563	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	☐
0564	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	☐
0565	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	☐
0566	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	☐
0567	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	☐
0568	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	☐
0569	Great Skua	<i>Catharacta skua</i>	☐
0575	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	☐
0577	Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	☐
0578	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	☐
0579	Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>	☐
0581	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	☐
0582	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	☐
0589	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	☐
0590	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	☐
0591	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	☐
0591.2	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	☐
0592	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	☐
0598	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	☐
0599	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	☐

0600	Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	☐
0602	Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	☐
0605	Gull-billed Tern	Sterna nilotica	☐
0606	Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia	☐
0611	Sandwich Tern	Sterna sandvicensis	☐
0614	Roseate Tern	Sterna dougallii	☐
0615	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	☐
0616	Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	☐
0622	Bridled Tern	Sterna anaethetus	☐
0623	Sooty Tern	Sterna fuscata	☐
0624	Little Tern	Sterna albifrons	☐
0626	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	☐
0627	Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	☐
0628	White-winged Black Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus	☐
0634	Guillemot	Uria aalge	☐
0636	Razorbill	Alca torda	☐
0647	Little Auk	Alle alle	☐
0654	Puffin	Fratercula arctica	☐
0663	Pallas's Sandgrouse	Syrnhaptas paradoxus	☐
0665	Rock Dove	Columba livia	☐
0668	Stock Dove	Columba oenas	☐
0670	Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	☐
0684	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	☐
0687	Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	☐
0712	Ring-necked Parakeet	Psittacula krameri	☐
0724	Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	☐
0728	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	☐
0735	Barn Owl	Tyto alba	☐
0739	Scops Owl*	Otus scops	☐
0749	Snowy Owl	Bubo scandiaca	☐
0757	Little Owl	Athene noctua	☐
0761	Tawny Owl	Strix aluco	☐
0767	Long-eared Owl	Asio otus	☐
0768	Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	☐
0770	Tengmalm's Owl*	Aegolius funereus	☐
0778	Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	☐
0786	Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	☐
0795	Swift	Apus apus	☐
0798	Alpine Swift	Apus melba	☐
0831	Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	☐
0840	Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	☐
0841	Roller	Coracias garrulus	☐
0846	Hoopoe	Upupa epops	☐
0848	Wryneck	Jynx torquilla	☐
0856	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	☐
0876	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	☐
0887	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos minor	☐
0968	Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	☐
0972	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	☐

0974	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	☐
0976	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	☐
0978	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	☐
0981	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	☐
0992	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	☐
0995	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	☐
1001	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	☐
1002	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	☐
1005	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	☐
1008	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	☐
1009	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	☐
1011	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	☐
1012	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	☐
1014	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	☐
1015	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	☐
1017	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	☐
1018	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	☐
1019	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	☐
1020	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	☐
1048	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	☐
1050	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	☐
1066	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	☐
1084	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	☐
1094	Alpine Accentor*	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	☐
1099	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	☐
1104	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	☐
1106	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	☐
1121	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	☐
1122	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	☐
1137	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	☐
1139	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	☐
1146	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	☐
1149	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	☐
1176	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	☐
1186	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	☐
1187	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	☐
1197	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	☐
1198	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	☐
1200	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	☐
1201	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	☐
1202	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	☐
1220	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	☐
1236	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	☐
1238	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	☐
1242	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	☐
1243	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	☐
1247	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	☐
1248	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	☐
1250	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	☐

1251	Reed Warble	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	☐
1259	Icterine Warbler	Hippolais icterina	☐
1260	Melodious Warbler	Hippolais polyglotta	☐
1262	Dartford Warbler	Sylvia undata	☐
1265	Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans	☐
1267	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala	☐
1273	Barred Warbler	Sylvia nisoria	☐
1274	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	☐
1275	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	☐
1276	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin	☐
1277	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	☐
1298	Pallas's Warbler	Phylloscopus proregulus	☐
1300	Yellow-browed Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus	☐
1301	Radde's Warbler	Phylloscopus schwarzi	☐
1308	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	☐
1311	Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	☐
1311.1	Iberian Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus ibericus	☐
1312	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	☐
1314	Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	☐
1315	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla	☐
1335	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	☐
1343	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Ficedula parva	☐
1349	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca	☐
1364	Bearded Tit	Panurus biarmicus	☐
1437	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	☐
1440	Marsh Tit	Parus palustris	☐
1442	Willow Tit	Parus montanus	☐
1454	Crested Tit	Parus cristatus	☐
1461	Coal Tit	Parus ater	☐
1462	Blue Tit	Parus caeruleus	☐
1464	Great Tit	Parus major	☐
1479	Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	☐
1486	Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	☐
1487	Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla	☐
1490	Penduline Tit	Remiz pendulinus	☐
1508	Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	☐
1514	Isabelline Shrike	Lanius isabellinus	☐
1515	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio	☐
1519	Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius minor	☐
1520	Great Grey Shrike	Lanius excubitor	☐
1523	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator	☐
1539	Jay	Garrulus glandarius	☐
1549	Magpie	Pica pica	☐
1557	Nutcracker	Nucifraga caryocatactes	☐
1560	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	☐
1563	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	☐
1567	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	☐
1567.1	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	☐
1572	Raven	Corvus corax	☐

1582	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	☐
1584	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	☐
1591	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	☐
1598	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	☐
1636	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	☐
1638	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	☐
1640	Serín	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	☐
1649	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	☐
1653	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	☐
1654	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	☐
1660	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	☐
1662	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	☐
1663	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	☐
1663.1	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	☐
1664	Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	☐
1665	Two-barred Crossbill*	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	☐
1666	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	☐
1668	Parrot Crossbill*	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	☐
1679	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrínus</i>	☐
1699	Pine Grosbeak*	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	☐
1710	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	☐
1717	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	☐
1847	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	☐
1850	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	☐
1856	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	☐
1857	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	☐
1858	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	☐
1866	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	☐
1873	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	☐
1874	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	☐
1877	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	☐
1881	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	☐
1882	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	☐

Guide for Contributors of Ornithological Records

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, e.g. out of season migrants.

This guide does not apply to Inner London where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

KEY:

- A = all records.
- D = full description required (form available from recorders).
- N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance etc., form available from recorders)
- MM = dated monthly maxima for frequently visited sites and all records from elsewhere subject to >n.
- >n = minimum count required, subject to other categories.
- B = all breeding records subject to >n.
- T = all territory counts as well as definite breeding records.
- S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
- F&L = first and last dates.
- P = passage flocks and movements.
- W = all wintering records.

All divers (A, N)
 Little/Great Crested Grebe (MM, B)
 Other grebes (A)
 All petrels (A, D)
 All shearwaters/Fulmar (A, D)
 Gannet (A, N)
 Cormorant (MM, B)
 Shag (A)
 Bittern (A)
 Grey Heron (MM, >15, B)
 Little Egret (A)
 Purple/Night Heron (A, D)
 White Stork/Spoonbill (A, D)
 Mute Swan (MM, >30, B)
 Bewick's/Whooper Swans (A, N)
 Bean/Pink-footed Goose (A, D)
 White-fronted Goose (A)
 Greylag Goose (MM, B)

Barnacle/Brent/Egyptian Goose (A)
 Canada Goose (MM, >200, B)
 Shelduck (MM, S)
 [Ruddy Shelduck (A)]
 Mandarin/Wigeon (A)
 American Wigeon (A, D)
 Gadwall/Teal (MM, S)
 Green-winged Teal (A, D)
 Mallard (MM, >200, B)
 Pintail/Garganey (A)
 Shoveler (MM, S)
 Red-crested Pochard (A)
 Pochard (MM, >10, S)
 Ring-necked Duck (A, D)
 Tufted Duck (MM, >50, B)
 Scaup (A)
 Eider/Long-tailed Duck (A, N)
 Common Scoter (A)

- Velvet Scoter (A, D)
 Goldeneye/Smew (A)
 Red-b. Merganser/Goosander (A)
 Ruddy Duck (MM, B)
 Red Kite (A)
 Marsh Harrier (A)
 Hen/Montagu's Harrier (A, D)
 Goshawk (A, D)
 Sparrowhawk (A)
 Common Buzzard (A)
 Honey/Rough-legged Buzzard (A, D)
 Osprey (A)
 Kestrel (>5, B)
 Merlin (A, N)
 Hobby/Peregrine (A)
 All partridges (>5, S)
 Quail (A, D)
 Pheasant (>20, B)
 Water Rail (A)
 Spotted Crake/Corncrake (A, D)
 Moorhen/Coot (MM, >20, B>5)
 Crane (A, D)
 Oystercatcher/Avocet (A)
 Stone-curlew (A, D)
 Little Ringed Plover/Ringed Plover (A)
 Kentish Plover/Dotterel (A, D)
 Golden/Grey Plover (A)
 Lapwing (P, >10, B)
 Knot/Sanderling/Little Stint(A)
 Temminck's Stint (A, D)
 Curlew Sandpiper (A)
 Pectoral/Purple Sandpiper (A, D)
 Dunlin (MM, >5, S)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (A, D)
 Ruff/Woodcock/Jack Snipe(A)
 Snipe (MM, >3, S)
 All godwits/Whimbrel/Curlew(A)
 Spotted Redshank (A)
 Redshank (MM, >5, S)
 Greenshank (A)
 Green/Wood/Common Sandpiper (A)
 Turnstone (A)
 All phalaropes (A, D)
 All skuas (A, D)
 Mediterranean/Little Gull (A)
 Sabine's Gull (A, D)
 Black-headed Gull (MM, >50)
 Ring-billed Gull (A, D)
 Common Gull (MM, >10)
 LBB/Herring Gull/ (MM, >10, B)
 Yellow-legged/Caspian Gull (A)
 Iceland/Glaucous Gull (A,D)
 Great Black-backed Gull (MM, >10)
 Kittiwake (A)
 Sandwich Tern (A)
 Roseate Tern (A, D)
 Common Tern (MM, >5, B, F&L)
 Arctic/Little/Black Tern (A)
 All auks (A, D)
 Feral Rock Dove (>100)
 Stock Dove (>10, B)
 Woodpigeon (>100, B, P)
 Collared Dove (>20, B)
 Turtle Dove (A)
 Ring-necked Parakeet (A)
 Cuckoo (S, P, F&L)
 All owls (A)
 Nightjar (A, N)
 Swift (>100, B, P, F&L)
 Kingfisher (T)
 Bee-eater/Hoopoe/Wryneck(A, D)
 All woodpeckers (T)
 Short-toed Lark/Shore Lark (A, D)
 Woodlark (A, D away from breeding sites)
 Skylark (>5, B, P)
 Sand Martin (>20, B, F&L, P)
 Swallow/House Martin (>50, B, F&L P)
 Tawny/Richard's Pipits (A, D)
 Tree Pipit (A)
 Meadow Pipit (>25, B, P)
 Rock/Water Pipit (A)
 Yellow Wagtail (A)
 Grey Wagtail (MM, S)
 Pied Wagtail (>5, B)
 Waxwing (A)
 Dipper (A, D)
 Wren/Dunnock/Robin (>10, T)
 Nightingale (A)
 Bluethroat (A, D)
 Black Redstart/Redstart/Whinchat (A)
 Stonechat/Wheatear/Ring Ouzel (A)
 Blackbird (>20, P, T)
 Fieldfare/Redwing (>20, F&L, P)
 Song/Mistle Thrush (>5, P, T)
 Cetti's Warbler (A, D unless singing)
 Aquatic/Marsh Warbler (A, D)
 Grasshopper Warbler (A)
 Sedge/Reed Warbler (>5, F&L, T)
 Hippolais warblers (A, D)
 Barred Warbler (A, D)
 Dartford Warbler (A)
 Lesser Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)
 Common Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)

Garden Warbler (>5, F&L, T)	House Sparrow (>20, B>5)
Blackcap (>10, F&L, T, W)	Tree Sparrow (A)
Pallas's/Yellow-browed Warbler (A, D)	Chaffinch (>50, B, P)
Wood Warbler (A)	Brambling (A)
Chiffchaff (>10, F&L, T, W)	Serin (A, D)
Willow Warbler (>10, F&L, T)	Greenfinch/Goldfinch (>30, B, P)
Goldcrest (>5, T)	Siskin (>5, S)
Firecrest (A)	Linnet (>20, B, P)
Spotted/Pied Flycatcher (A)	Twite (A, D)
Red-breasted Flycatcher (A, D)	Lesser Redpoll (>5, S)
Bearded Tit (A)	Mealy Redpoll (A, N)
Long-tailed Tit (>20, T)	Crossbill (A)
Marsh/Willow Tit (A)	Common Rosefinch (A, D)
Coal/Blue/Great Tit (>20, T)	Bullfinch (>5, B)
Nuthatch/Treecreeper (T)	Hawfinch (A)
Golden Oriole (A, D)	Lapland Bunting (A, D)
All shrikes (A, D)	Snow Bunting (A, N)
Jay/Magpie (>15, B>5, P)	Yellowhammer (>10, T)
Jackdaw/Rook (>20, B)	Ortolan/Cirl Bunting (A, D)
Carrion Crow (>50, B>5)	Reed Bunting (>10, T, P)
Hooded Crow (A, N)	Little Bunting (A, D)
Raven (A, D)	Corn Bunting (>5, T)
Starling (>100, B>10)	
Rose-coloured Starling (A, D)	

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Editor or recorders on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required. In difficult cases, eg *Aythya* hybrids, supporting notes may be required.

Sub-species

All records of sub-species/races are required. In some cases notes are required, eg White Wagtail in autumn and races of Yellow Wagtail other than *M.f. flavissima*. In many other instances notes may not be required but in difficult cases please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular sub-species/race. Such cases could be:

Greenland Wheatear; Races of Chiffchaff; Northern Willow Warbler; Northern Long-tailed Tit; and Northern Bullfinch

Rock Pipit: when given suitable viewing conditions please record which race of Rock Pipit you encountered and submit the reasons for your belief.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their records - without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual London Bird Report.

Andrew Self, on behalf of the Records Committee, May 2005.

Notes for Contributors

The Editor welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired. Papers should be submitted to the Papers Editor.

Manuscripts Texts should be submitted on a PC compatible computer diskette/CD in a Microsoft Word or Works word processor file.

Style English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital. Their use in the text is optional if listed in the *Birdwatch Checklist of the Birds of the Western Palaearctic*. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2004; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised. Full points should be omitted from well-known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Quotation marks, if used, should be double. Any references to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics. References should adopt the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

Illustrations Figures and graphs in papers are welcomed. Artwork should not be prepared until size of reproduction is known and the Editor has been consulted.

Photographs Prints must allow sufficient background for masking and block-making. If sent by post they must be packed in a board-backed envelope or otherwise protected to prevent damage. Digital photos can be submitted on a CD.

Proofs Authors of papers and short notes will be sent proofs, if requested, but only printers' mistakes may be changed at this stage.

Reprints Up to 2 free reprints of papers (but not short notes or reviews) are provided if ordered by authors in advance. Larger quantities are charged at cost.

All papers for publication should be submitted to the Papers Editor, Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, Stoke Newington, London N16 7BP, email: mike@trierm.freemove.co.uk

Photographs should be submitted to the Photographic Editor, Dominic Mitchell, email: dominic.mitchell@birdwatch.co.uk

London Bird Report for 2001

edited by Andrew Self

NUMBER 66

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